

SHOOT!

SUMMER SPECIAL

1978

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**BIG STARS
EXCITING FEATURES
SENSATIONAL
ACTION PHOTOS**

Manchester United's Lou Macari and Len Cantello of West Brom get to grips during last season's game at The Hawthorns.

SHOOT'S HOLIDAY 'EXTRA'

NOTTINGHAM Forest's sensational Championship and League Cup double ... Ipswich Town's F.A. Cup triumph ... Liverpool's European Cup victory for the second year in succession ... England's World Cup failure ... Scotland's magnificent march to Argentina.

Last season was certainly one of the most exciting and dramatic of all time.

Now we are enjoying soccer's close-season and looking eagerly ahead to the new campaign.

To help you through the summer the "team" that produces Britain's brightest and biggest selling football magazine has again compiled this extra-special edition.

Top stars, all-action photos, exciting features, quizzes and jokes. You'll find them all in SHOOT'S SUMMER SPECIAL.

Happy holiday reading ...

David Gregory
EDITOR

International Bosses

DAVE SEXTON'S appointment cost Manchester United a post-War record. Until the former Q.P.R. boss took over from Tommy Docherty in July, 1977, the Old Trafford club had been managed exclusively by ex-international players — Docherty and Sir Matt Busby (both Scotland), Wilf McGuinness (England) and Frank O'Farrell (Ire).

This Football League distinction was also shared by Wolves. They lost it when Sammy Chung followed Bill McGarry.

The Molineux sequence had read: Stan Cullis, Ronnie Allen and McGarry (England) and Andy Beat- tie (Scotland).

DERBY and Scotland star Bruce Rioch and Don Masson were known as "The Inseparables" at the Baseball Ground.

Explains Bruce: "We warmed up together before training, we trained together, and roomed together, and we planned out ideas."

Hardly surprising. Rioch's father is from Aberdeen, while Masson belongs to Banchory, just a few miles from the Granite City.



'ARSENAL- TOP TEAM OF THE 80's'

predicts Malcolm Allison

MALCOLM ALLISON is happy to have his name put down as one of the admirers of F.A. Cup Finalists, Arsenal.

He reckons the young Gunners side is going to be one of the key forces in the game in the next few years and says: "I reckon they will be THE team of the '80's."

He feels they are better than the double winning Arsenal side overall even though they are not quite as good defensively, and says: "They have three of the best young players produced in this country in the last decade. Few players I have ever seen have been able to beat their man like Brady, shown as much vision as Rix or as much speed in the middle of defence as O'Leary."

Adds Allison: "Arsenal are sure to be right up there next season."

LUCKY CHARM?

ONE of the reasons for Middlesbrough's return to winning form during the last few weeks of the season was Bill Ashcroft, the striker they signed from Wrexham.

After nearly three months without a goal he decided to shave off his beard. It worked the trick! Bill Ashcroft also points to another lucky charm, a Liverpool F.C. medallion, given to him by a fan after Boro's defeat at Anfield.

"It might change your luck," said the fan, who knew that Ashcroft was born on Merseyside. It did. In the next match he scored two goals. Is he superstitious? Not really, but it makes you think, doesn't it?

MOBILE BINGHAM!

MANSFIELD TOWN supremo Billy Bingham has been around quite a bit in his big-time career, both as a manager and a player.

As a fast-moving winger, Belfast-born Bingham had spells with Glentoran, Sunderland, Luton Town, Everton and Port Vale, collecting a then record — equalling 56 Northern Ireland caps in the process.

And Bingham's managerial posts included two stints in Greece, plus spells at Plymouth Argyle, Southport, Linfield, Everton, and as team-boss of his native Northern Ireland.

RAPID RISE

THERE could have been few more rapid rises from Third to First Division status than that of Gary Shelton, the 19-year-old midfield all-rounder for whom Aston Villa paid Walsall a fee of £60,000.

Gary had made only 14 full appearances in the League side — and nearly twice as many as substitute! — when he heard the staggering news that he was wanted by Ron Saunders.

The small, slim, Nottingham-born youngster did not make his League debut for Walsall until towards the end of the 1975-76 season.

If he realises his ambition and makes the grade with Villa his former club will receive another £40,000. Here's hoping — for Gary and for Walsall.

AS a soccer star with Manchester United and England, Bobby Charlton saw a great deal of the world. He's still on the move as a travel agent with his own business.



JUST in case you don't know ... preparations are already under way for the 1982 World Cup Finals which will take place in Spain.

QUEEN OF the South's English 'keeper, Alan Ball, played his 700th game for the club against East Fife in March. Alan, a car salesman in Dumfries, has been with Queen's for 15 years.





AFTER all the trouble at Millwall's ground during their F.A. Cup Sixth Round tie v. Ipswich, this policeman had just cause to take a second look at the pair of legs hanging from the coffin. After all, he could have been SHOOT'S photographer, Danny Fox, in a spot of bother.

As it turned out though, this coffin was merely a left-over prop from a Wild West show staged before the match against the eventual Cup winners kicked off.

Because of crowd trouble at the match the F.A. closed the ground for two matches.

Waggy's winging his way back

DAVID WAGSTAFFE (below), the flying winger of Manchester City and Wolves, who made his Football League debut way back in 1960 alongside such greats as Bert Trautmann, Ken Barnes and Denis Law, is still going strong and hoping for a return to the First Division by promotion with Blackburn Rovers next time.

The Ewood Park Club were the surprise packet of the Second Division last season and Waggy's new role in midfield was an important factor in their rise.

Says former manager Jim Smith: "Dave had a big effect and was especially significant in our rise up the table."

Says Waggy: "The atmosphere here is just like it was at Molineux in 1969 when we won promotion. I'm already scenting the First Division. It will be great to be back if we make it."

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

THREE players — all with Bristol connections had good reason to remember debut games last season.

Bobby Gould hit a hat-trick in his first appearance for Bristol Rovers against Blackburn.

Ex-Bristol City striker Colin Lee, celebrated his first game in a Spurs shirt with four goals — against Bristol Rovers.

And when Joe Royle joined Bristol City — first on loan from Manchester City — he began in similar style, with all four goals in a win over Middlesbrough.

Incredible Futchers

WHEN Paul Futchers turned out for Luton at Charlton on January 21st, he was completing one of the most incredible come-backs in the history of football.

For he was back in action just 65 days after almost being killed in a car crash.

After that crash the England Under-21 defender's career looked over. For he suffered six broken ribs, a broken shoulder, punctured lung and a serious head injury.

Yet his powers of recovery proved so great he was mobile within two weeks and soon began to nourish ideas of playing again.

"Fortunately my legs and feet had not been damaged, so I knew I would eventually be able to play again," said Futchers.

"Once I got back in full training I set a target of February 4th — when we played Bristol Rovers — for my return to the first team.

"But things went so well I beat that comfortably and managed to get back after missing only 11 first team matches."

Albion fans didn't want Cross

DAVID CROSS, West Ham United's £180,000 striker from West Bromwich Albion, did not need to have second thoughts when asked to move to Upton Park.

He said: "During my last three weeks at Albion I was made aware that the fans wanted Cyrille Regis instead of me in the side.

"At the time I thought I was playing quite well and it made me think of what might happen if I went through a bad spell.

"The fans did not drive me away from The Hawthorns, but it was a factor behind the move.

"Looking back I still feel that my record of 18 goals from 40 games was not too bad in the circumstances.

"Now I am hoping that I can help West Ham United re-establish themselves as a top club with a few more goals."

David's last supper as an Albion player was served up by Mick Martin (left) and John Wile. This photo was taken shortly after he had signed for West Ham.



Testimonial

DAVID NEEDHAM'S transfer from Queens Park Rangers to Nottingham Forest brought about a reunion between two former Notts County favourites, David himself and Ronnie Fenton, Forest's coach.

Speaking of David's return to the city where he built a reputation, Ron said: "I've always had the highest regard for Dave, as a player and as a man of dedication. He was my captain at Notts County and I doubt if he's ever created a moment's trouble for anyone."

A wonderful testimonial from an old playing pal.

TOM RITCHIE

Bristol City



'RELEGATION WAS GOOD FOR ME'

MARTIN O'Neill had played in over 150 League games for Nottingham Forest before the beginning of last season. Nineteen Northern Ireland caps in four years (he won just one with his Irish club, Distillery) show he was fairly established at international level.

Yet the 25-year-old midfielder was still virtually unknown by soccer fans in general. A "fringe" player... always there or thereabouts.

Now, a year later, O'Neill is a very important and well-known member of Forest's brilliant side, the best to hit the First Division in ages.

Apart from Scottish winger, John Robertson, O'Neill is actually the longest-server at the City Ground with more than six years' service.

O'Neill has had to fight off his share of rivals, but in a quiet, yet effective way, has become a "must" for Forest. The O'Neill/McGovern/Gemmill midfield trio may not have the stature or household-name ring about it, but no "engine room" in the League ran more smoothly last season.

IMPROVED

O'Neill made his Forest debut in their relegation season, 1971/72, and says now: "Being back in the top flight definitely improved my game."

"My style seems more suited to this level and it's the same with the other lads. I must also thank Brian Clough and Peter Taylor for the way they've helped me."

"They have made me accept more responsibility, my confidence has grown and it's impossible to give less than 100 per cent for Forest."

"My early days when I came over from Ireland weren't easy. The club was going through a transitional period and things didn't always run smoothly."

"Looking back, though, I feel the experience of relegation and being up against it was good. It makes you grow up quickly as a person and a player. I now appreciate our success because I've had downs as well as ups."

"I never dreamed I'd be helping Forest to promotion and then straight away make the running for the League

says Forest star Martin O'Neill

Championship.

"Once the management put the club on the right rails, we all wanted to be part of the success."

O'Neill impressed with his hard running and delightful touches which epitomised Forest's flair during 1977-78.

The short, safe ball isn't for him... the Irish star now has the vision to go with his work-rate and the defensive side of his game has tightened up, too.



For some people work-rate is a dirty word, but that is only really the case when it isn't combined with skill. Forest showed the perfect balance of technique and the willingness to run for each other all the time.

O'Neill took on even more responsibility in the League Cup as Forest were forced to change their line-up as Peter

Shilton, Dave Needham and "educated" Archie Gemmill were Cup-tied.

John McGovern moved back into defence occasionally, so O'Neill was the sole survivor from the regular midfield, being partnered by Ian Bowyer and John O'Hare.

It is no disrespect to the ineligible stars to say they weren't missed.

O'Neill may still not get as many headlines or praise as some of the other Forest aces.

But everyone knows him now!

Forest manager Brian Clough and right-hand man Peter Taylor.



'Jairzinho — wonder winger'

IN my time I've been privileged to play against, and watch, many of the world's greatest players, and have marvelled at their dazzling skills.

Their outstanding performances, imprinted on my mind, provide me with magic moments to savour and to compare with newer, more recent ones.

Here I'd like to select players, position by position, who I place on a plane above the rest — men I

believe will always be regarded as giants in the game — and single out instances of their particular, unique genius.

Being a goalkeeper myself, I feel especially capable of judging "number ones", working out their strengths and weaknesses. This way I find I can improve my own game as well as being able to brief my team-mates about the man they have to beat to score.

The man I place in the fore-front

Left: Brazil's Jairzinho scored the goal that beat England in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Right: Bobby Moore and Franz Beckenbauer exchange greetings and pennants before England's European Championship tie at Wembley in 1972. England lost 3-1.

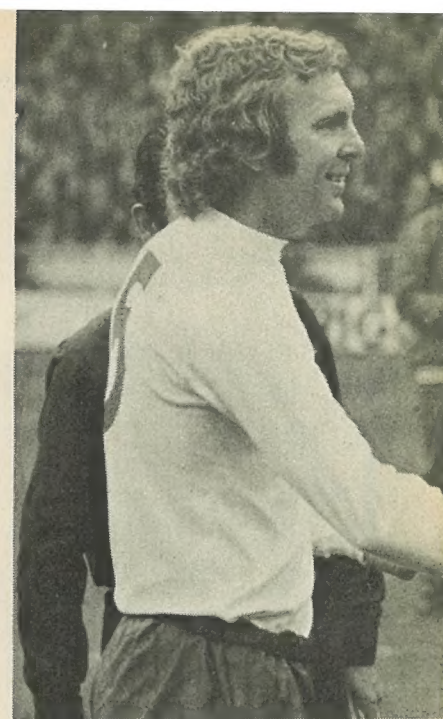
of modern-day 'keepers is Pat Jennings, of Arsenal and Northern Ireland, a quiet-spoken, modest man who is world class from head to toe.

The most striking part of his anatomy, though, are his hands, often compared to shovels, a tremendous asset.

His easy-going temperament, allied to his ability, means that he never gets ruffled, something which helps instill confidence into his defenders.

Players blessed with exceptional talent are often unorthodox.

Saving with the feet is usually regarded as a desperate, last resort, but Pat makes a speciality of using

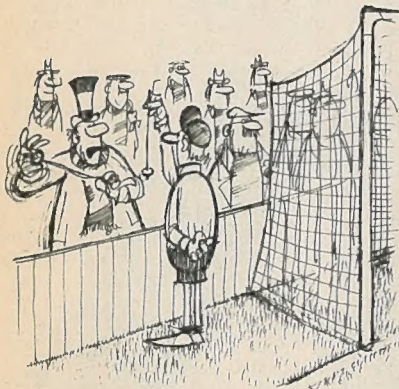


'MY TEAM OF

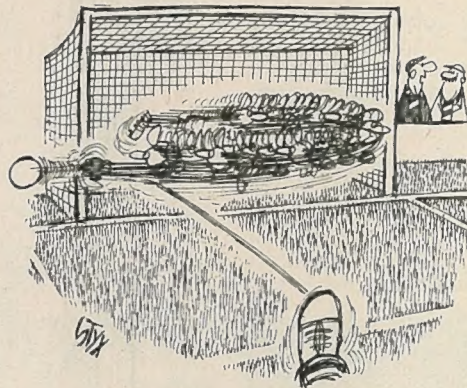
RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

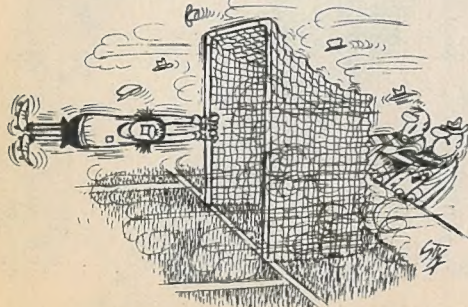
GOALIE GIGGLES



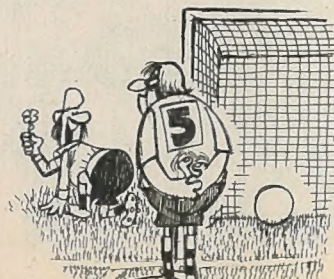
"Not much of a side, are they?"



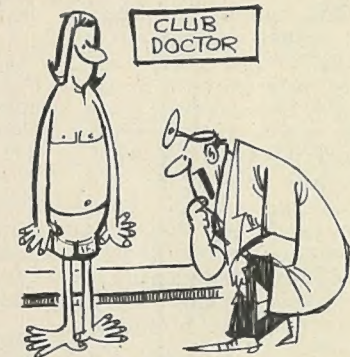
"Look at that . . . dived the wrong way for that penalty and then changed direction in mid-air."



"Playing with the wind we should be three goals up — not three goals down."



"Look, skipper, a four-leaf clover."



"I've seen this before in other goalies. You're saving too many shots with your feet."



"That's the hand that threw the ball back to Peter Shilton. Says he's never going to wash it."



ionship in fine style.

Arsenal, his next club, have found it difficult to replace him, and he is highly valued at Southampton.

Whereas Ballie is an all-action man, Gunter Netzer tended to stand or walk around in midfield. Yet he was equally effective.

I remember him best when he played against Liverpool in the 1973 U.E.F.A. Cup Final. In the first-leg at Anfield he was wasted in defence, and we won 3-0.

In the second-leg, he was transformed, pulling our defence about at will with an incredible variety of passes, some of which he "bent" over 60 yards.

Within 20 minutes we were 2-0 down and hanging on for dear life, mainly because of Gunter's efforts.

We needed all our character to hang on, allow the Germans to tire themselves out and take the trophy by winning 3-2 on aggregate.

For my "wonder winger" I have no hesitation in nominating Jairzinho, another Brazilian, the man who scored the goal that beat Eng-

land in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Guadalajara.

He had speed, control, intelligence and the ability to finish, one thing few wingers possess.

Running him close was Peter Thompson, a former Liverpool favourite, who has gone on to give great service to Bolton, but Peter has one failing. His final pass or shot is not as accurate.

I found selecting a striker who excels above all others an impossible task. Eventually I managed to narrow my list down to three.

Firstly, a man I never played against, only saw or read about — the legendary Ferenc Puskas of Real Madrid and Hungary.

He was the orchestrator of England's first-ever defeat at Wembley, in 1953 when Hungary beat us 6-3.

THE GREATEST

One of his goals was a real gem. Pulling the ball back with the sole of his boot, he sent several England defenders the wrong way, then calmly clipped it into the net.

I make no apologies for picking another Brazilian. When mentioning players who have carved a name for themselves in soccer's exclusive roll of honour, Pele — Edson Arantes do Nascimento — cannot be overlooked.

As I said before, Pele is probably the greatest.

I was privileged to play on the same pitch as him only once — in the twilight of his career — in that American Bicentennial game — and he had lost none of his abundant skill, only some pace, which was inevitable as he was in his mid-thirties.

No 'keeper could ever enjoy playing against Pele. He was always likely to do the unexpected. He had the knack of being able to "bend" a ball whichever way he wanted.

Apart from helping Brazil to a hat-trick of World Cup wins, he can also claim to have put American soccer on the map — although he would never claim so, because of his inborn modesty.

Almost measuring up to Pele is Johan Cruyff, possessed with incredible change of pace, a wide range of ball-skills, and the ability to lead.

Often, captains find it hard to concentrate on their own game while directing their team, but Johan never had any difficulty.

In a 1974 World Cup game against Sweden he ran at full-pace with a full-back "inside" him, suddenly stopped on the by-line, sending the back reeling on, pulled the ball back between his legs and put over a cross which Johnny Rep only just drove outside the goal.

Like other players I've mentioned, Johan can truly be called "great"!

ALL-TIME GREATS'

his legs to deal with a shot or cross.

When near-neighbours, and long-standing rivals, Arsenal bought Pat for a mere £40,000 last summer it was "Soccer's Sale of the Century".

For my most-impressive full-back I go for Francisco Marinho, the tall, blond Brazilian who made such an impact in the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Francisco has all the attributes; speed, vision, is quick on the turn, defends superbly, but can switch to the attack whenever the opportunity occurs.

He does not get embarrassed when he finds himself in an advanced forward position. Many defenders are at a loss in "unknown territory," either give the ball away or let loose an ineffective shot. Francisco can be as deadly as an experienced striker.

From reports I read in SHOOT, it seems that his extravagant life-style — he's a "night-bird" who enjoys music, dancing and such things — lost him his place in the Brazilian team.

This is a pity. Because Francisco, on form, could have made such a valuable contribution to his country's showing in Argentina.

However, there's still time for him to forget about being a high-living playboy and concentrate on playing football again.

In the centre of defence, two men are of equal, imposing stature: Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany and Bobby Moore of England. They opposed each other many times, and the battle of wits was always fascinating to watch.

Both captained their countries to World Cup wins, Bobby in 1966 and Franz in 1974. Incidentally, both on their home territory.

Franz had more success at club level: with Bayern Munich, three times winners of the European Cup

'Bobby Moore and Franz Beckenbauer — two men of equal stature'

and winners of a string of domestic honours; while Bobby's achievements with West Ham and then Fulham were much more modest: medals for Cup-Winners' Cup and F.A. Cup.

However, Bobby would have undoubtedly enjoyed more success in this area if he had been with a stronger, more fashionable club than West Ham throughout his First Division career.

The styles of Bobby and Franz were very different — Bobby tended to stay back, delay his tackles and specialise in long, accurate cross-field passes; Franz was more of a ball-player who at times joined in attacks. Both were rock-steady, never got flustered, and an inspiration to those players around them.

In midfield, I also have two players I find it difficult to separate from top spot.

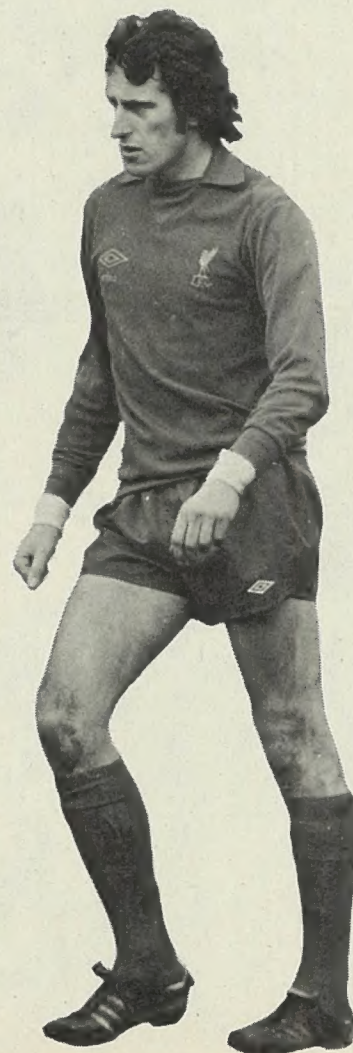
Alan Ball, a team-mate of Bobby's for England for many years, and Gunter Netzer, who played for a shorter period alongside Franz.

Ballie earned the title "Ball of Fire" for his non-stop running for 120 minutes in the 1966 World Cup Final, when he appeared to cover every blade of grass from the kick-off to the final whistle at the end of extra-time.

It was his contribution, above all others, that brought the World Cup to England for the only time.

But his game isn't just about effort. He is an excellent passer of the ball, an intelligent reader of the game, and a born leader.

It was Ballie who inspired Everton to win the 1970 League Champ-



Ray Clemence

Everton full-back Mike Pejic brings the ball away from Derby County's Steve Powell.



IT'S quite a while since England last played a home full international away from Wembley.

In fact, there have only been three in the past 20 years — against Luxembourg at Highbury in 1961; France at Hillsborough in 1962; and Poland at Everton in 1966.

Now, Wembley — even if 55-years-old, designed for another era, and now decidedly tatty in places — has established traditional links with English international soccer.

It came on the scene, not long after World War One, when the international game was slowly beginning to move towards the big-time global set-up as we know it today.

So now the rest of the sporting world tends to associate Wembley with our soccer almost as much as Lord's with our cricket. Overseas players regard it as a kind of Mecca to play there.

And England itself has got decidedly sentimental links with



Should England play home matches AWAY FROM WEMBLEY?

the grey old place, too — it was there, after all, that we won the World Cup!

Against that, though, Wembley feels cold, remote and often completely lacking in the genuine "atmosphere" of a well-packed League ground, such as Anfield or Old Trafford.

England has no national soccer stadium as such — and, though Wembley has been long "conscripted" to fill that bill, it's not generally realised that it's only almost by accident.

The famous Stadium, completed in 1923 and opened with the F.A. Cup Final of that year, was specifically erected for the Empire Exhibition the following year — and was scheduled to be pulled down almost immediately afterwards.

But the chairman of the company concerned was a live-wire named Arthur Elvin — for many years to come Wembley's "guv'nor", and subsequently knighted for his services to sport — who realised its potential far beyond the immediate short-term needs of the Exhibition.

And Elvin's enthusiastic foresight persuaded a number of financial backers to join him in buying the place up instead of just pulling it down.

But ironically — although the F.A. Cup Final has been played there continuously since it opened — England's international side hardly ever played there while the Stadium was still one of the sporting wonders of the world.

The Scotland game, in alternate seasons, was the only international fixture there up to the War. All the remainder — even top prestige games like that against Rest of Europe in 1938 — were played

on League club grounds in both London and the provinces.

When England were due to play their vital World Cup-tie with Italy last November, there were many cries for the game to be switched to somewhere like Old Trafford or Anfield or Villa Park. It was felt the "club" atmosphere and support would greatly help England to the disadvantage of the Italians.

Actually, it was never on because, until 1982, England are contractually committed to Wembley for their full international programme.

As it turned out, they won, anyway — but many still feel that, when possible, England would do well sometimes to make a "tactical" switch of venues.

Some of the pro-switchers, too, are men whose stature in the game makes their views deserving of every respect.

Men, for instance, like Joe Mercer — who climaxed a glorious all-round career by stepping in highly successfully as caretaker-manager between the reigns of Ramsey and Revie.

Genial Joe, whose relaxed approach tends to mask one of the shrewdest brains in the game is a firm supporter of the idea of moving at least some England games to selected League grounds.

Stamford Bridge, with the recent massive improvements which all but bankrupted the Chelsea club, clearly have their eyes on the future.

But how about provincial fans getting a better break? Merseyside, Manchester, and the North generally have dominated English football over recent years — and isn't it time they, and others outside the London area, had their fair share of seeing England in

action "live"?

Of course, whatever its faults in some directions, Wembley has one big thing going for it. And that's a huge capacity of 92,000.

A compromise situation — with at least some of the games going outside the capital — would seem to be the best possible solution, contractual ground arrangements permitting.

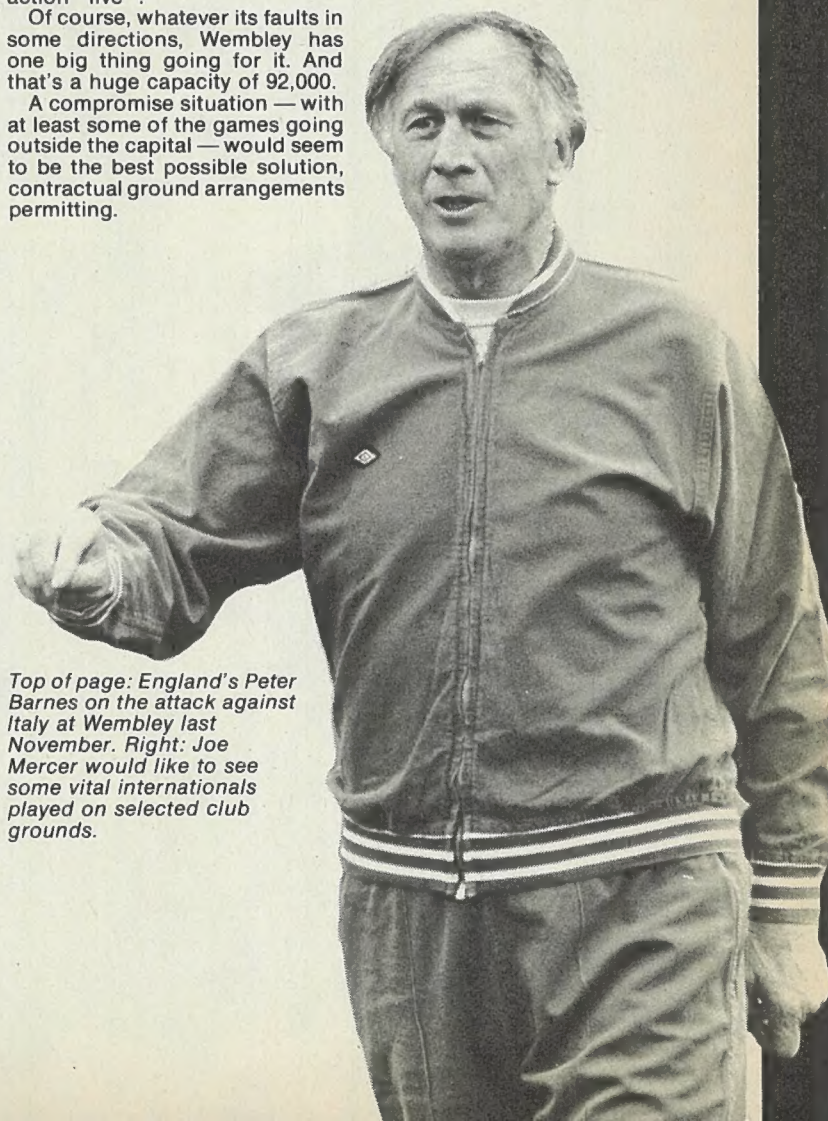
After all, the West Germans switch their home games around quite a bit — and they don't seem to have suffered, soccer-wise, in recent years!

England have played full internationals out there five times since the War — and in the four different venues of Berlin, Nuremberg, Hanover, and Munich.

And the West Germans have also played Scotland in Stuttgart, Hamburg, and Frankfurt. In 1977, they played Northern Ireland in Cologne; and Wales in Dortmund.

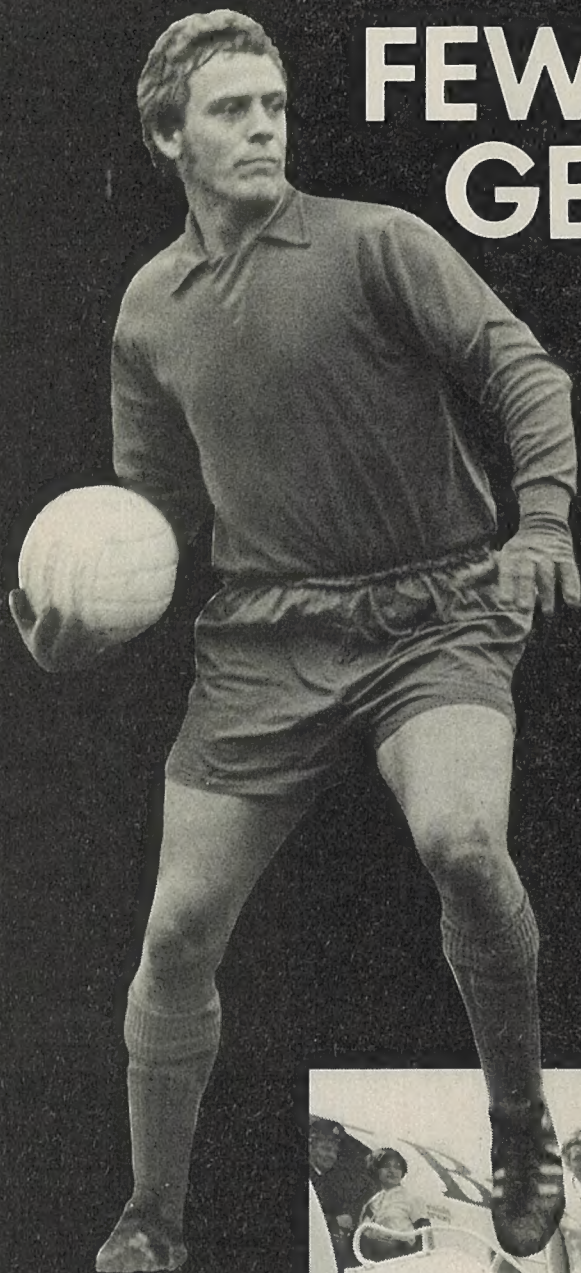
That's nine different grounds used for recent full internationals against the British nations alone!

Other nations, other ways — but, back to England, so what now? Trouble is, whatever is done, it's obviously impossible to please everyone all the time — but at least, with a little future sensible variation of grounds where practicable, it should be possible to please MORE fans ... if only for SOME of the time!



Top of page: England's Peter Barnes on the attack against Italy at Wembley last November. Right: Joe Mercer would like to see some vital internationals played on selected club grounds.

FEW YOUTH CAPS GET AHEAD FOR ENGLAND



SINCE 1947 nearly 900 promising young players have gained England caps in Youth internationals. Most were apprentices with a senior club or had recently joined the full professional ranks at the age of 17.

Quite a number had received their international baptism as England schoolboys and regarded selection for the Youth squad as another stepping stone to the fulfilment of every lad's dream — a full international cap.

But although the majority of them have gone on to achieve stardom and League and Cup honours with the greatest clubs in Britain, only a comparative few saw their boyhood dreams come true at international level.

If you care to count the list of names on the next page you will find there are 55 — yes, FIFTY-FIVE out of nearly 900 former Youth caps.

Many of the others received Under-23 or "B" international honours but — let us repeat it —

only 55 went right to the top rung of the England ladder. Among that illustrious bunch was Bobby Moore.

When he made his debut in the England Youth team against Holland in October, 1957 he was an almost unknown member of the West Ham junior staff.

But Bobby became captain of the England Youth squad and before reaching the Youth age limit in October, 1958 had worn the England shirt in 18 matches, a record.

Bobby, then a tall, fair-haired youngster, could never have dreamed that in the not too distant future he would become the most famous player in England.

West Ham have a rather remarkable record of Youth internationals. No sooner had Bobby Moore left the England Youth scene than he was followed by one of his Upton Park team-mates, Geoff Hurst, who, in that 1958-59 season gained six Youth caps, appearing in the left-half, centre-half and inside-right positions.

Above: Gordon West the first 'keeper to rise from Youth to full England honours. Below: The victorious England Youth squad arrived back with the Little World Cup in 1973. They also won it two years later. Right: Ray Wilkins with the trophy.





Geoff Hurst, international star of the past ... and Peter Barnes, one for the future.

It is rather surprising that Peter Shilton is only the second goalkeeper to rise from Youth to full England status. Gordon West, of Everton, was the other 'keeper.

Peter was also one of several well-known players to appear for England in Schools, Youth, Under-23 and full internationals.

Trevor Brooking was also among that 'caps-at-four-levels' group, while Terry Venables went one better by gaining an England Amateur cap, the only player to achieve this extraordinary distinction.

Bobby Charlton and Wilf McGuinness are two more who rose step by step up the international ladder, but they did it together.

They first became acquainted as England schoolboys in 1953 when Wilf captained the England Schools side.

Both joined Manchester United's junior staff and 12 months later they appeared together in an England Youth side, adding Under-23 and senior caps during the next few years.

An even more astonishing story concerns Duncan Edwards whose brilliant career came to such a tragic end in the Munich air disaster.

Duncan gained England Schools caps in 1950, 1951 and 1952, when he captained the side. Then during the 1954-55 season, at the age of 17 he wore England shirts in Youth, Under-23 and senior internationals, a fantastic treble that is never likely to be repeated.

As you will see from the list, six Manchester United 'lads' rose from Youth to Senior ranking during their service at Old Trafford, and four of them were members of that history-making side that won the European Cup in 1968 — Nobby Stiles, Brian Kidd, Bobby Charlton and David Sadler.

Yet, perhaps it is surprising that the name of Chelsea appears most often on the list with eight players — Peter Sillett, Frank Blunstone, Peter Brabrook, Jimmy Greaves and Barry Bridges (who were goalscoring partners in 1957), Terry Venables, John Hollins, Peter Osgood and, most recent, Ray Wilkins.

Ray has achieved a sensational rise to 'world' ranking during the last four seasons. He gained his Youth cap in January, 1975, his Under-23 cap in November of that same year and the following May stepped into the senior side for his first cap in the top grade.

Another member of that 1974-75 Youth XI was Peter Barnes, of Manchester City — and what progress he has made. He appeared in England's Under-21 side in 1976 and is now one of the outstanding young stars in the present full England side.

And there are more dedicated youngsters like Ray and Peter ready to step up from Youth ranking to the ultimate — the 1982 World Cup squad!

Then in the very next season another young Hammer stepped up for his Youth cap — Martin Peters, and he, like his colleagues Bobby and Geoff, took over the left-half berth.

Between 1960 and '62 Martin played 12 times for England Youth teams. Four years later the three West Ham pals who had developed together played their full part in the greatest victory in England's long international history — World Cup triumph.

The most remarkable season for the production of future England stars was 1966-67 when the Youth side included seven lads who are now fully fledged members of England's 'elite'.

Look at this list: Peter Shilton, Mick Mills, Colin Todd, Trevor Brooking (yes, another West Ham product!), Joe Royle, Brian Kidd and Frank Lampard (West Ham again!).

The first named six players were all members of a brilliant England Youth team who went to Monchengladbach and beat a magnificent West German team. The winning goal was scored by young Trevor Brooking. It was a foretaste of greater things to come.

YOUTH CAPS TO FULL INTERNATIONAL

	Youth Caps	1st Senior Cap			
Doug Holden (Bolton)	1949	1959	Gordon West (Blackpool)	1960, '61	1968
Peter Sillett (Chelsea)	1950	1954	Terry Venables (Chelsea)	1960	1964
John Atyeo (Wiltshire F.A., later Bristol C.)	1950	1955	Martin Peters (West Ham)	1960, '61, '62	1966
Frank Blunstone (Chelsea)	1951	1954	Chris Lawler (Liverpool)	1961	1971
Johnny Haynes (Fulham)	1952	1954	Francis Lee (Bolton W.)	1961	1968
Ray Parry (Lancs. F.A., later Bolton)	1952	1959	Paul Madeley (Leeds U.)	1962	1971
Wilf McGuinness (Man. U.)	1954, '56, '57, '58	1958	Tommy Smith (Liverpool)	1963	1971
Bobby Charlton (Man. U.)	1954	1958	David Sadler (Man. U.)	1963, '64	1968
Peter Swan (Sheff. Wed.)	1955	1960	John Hollins (Chelsea)	1964	1967
Duncan Edwards (Man. U.)	1955	1955	David Nish (Leicester)	1965, '66	1973
Peter Brabrook (Chelsea)	1955, '57	1958	Peter Osgood (Chelsea)	1965	1970
Jimmy Melia (Liverpool)	1956, '58	1963	David Clement (Queens P.R.)	1966	1976
Alan Peacock (Middlesbro')	1956	1962	Alex Lindsay (Bury)	1966	1974
Chris Crowe (W. Riding, later Wolves)	1956	1962	Peter Shilton (Leicester)	1967	1970
Johnny Byrne (C. Palace)	1956	1961	Mick Mills (Ipswich)	1967	1972
John Angus (Burnley)	1957, '58	1961	Colin Todd (Sunderland)	1967	1972
Jimmy Greaves (Chelsea)	1957	1959	Trevor Brooking (West Ham)	1967	1974
Barry Bridges (Chelsea)	1957, '58	1965	Joe Royle (Everton)	1967	1971
Bobby Moore (West Ham)	1958, '59	1962	Brian Kidd (Man. Utd.)	1967	1970
Tony Allen (Stoke C.)	1958	1959	Frank Lampard (West Ham)	1967	1972
Derek Temple (Everton)	1958	1965	Tony Currie (Watford)	1968	1972
Danny Clapton (Arsenal)	1958	1958	Bob Latchford (Birmingham)	1969	1977
Nobby Stiles (Man. U.)	1959	1965	Dave Thomas (Burnley)	1969	1974
Geoff Hurst (West Ham)	1959	1966	Steve Whitworth (Leicester)	1970	1975
Alan Hinton (Wolves)	1959	1962	Trevor Francis (Birmingham)	1971, '72	1977
			Phil Thompson (Liverpool)	1972	1976
			Kevin Beattie (Ipswich)	1972	1975
			John Gidman (Aston Villa)	1972	1977
			Ray Wilkins (Chelsea)	1975	1976
			Peter Barnes (Man. C.)	1975	1977

When Manchester

The days famous soccer clubs, now wealthy, struggled to survive

DURING the past season Manchester United spent nearly £900,000 on two players — Joe Jordan and Gordon McQueen. That's big money — but then United are one of the wealthiest clubs in the League.

Yet 70-odd years ago when they were known as Newton Heath, they hadn't a penny to call their own. They were broke!

A bunch of soccer-crazy employees at the wagon works of the old Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway formed Newton Heath FC in 1885, using a waste piece of ground beside the railway as their pitch.

In 1892 they were admitted to the First Division of the Football League. At the end of a disastrous season they finished bottom. A year later with an even worse record they were relegated.

From then on Newton Heath led a precarious and perilous existence. Twice they moved their headquarters but the fans weren't very interested.

The club's financial position grew worse and worse. On one occasion they had to hold their weekly committee meeting by candlelight. The gas had been cut off, because a long-standing account was still unpaid.

In 1901 it seemed they had reached the end of the road. They were bankrupt!

Yet fate took a hand. Harry Stafford, the club-captain, organised a bazaar to raise funds. Among other fund-raising ideas he took his St. Bernard dog into the streets with a collecting box dangling from its collar. But the dog wandered off on his own and got lost.

That incident saved Newton Heath FC. A wealthy local businessman found the dog and was so impressed that when he returned him to his grateful owner he offered to pay off all the club's debts.

It was the turning point in the career of Newton Heath, although when they began again it was under a new name — Manchester United, now one of the greatest and most wealthy clubs in soccer.

The story of Manchester City is almost a replica of the United saga. They started out in 1880 as West Gorton but after several inglorious seasons changed their name to Ardwick FC and took over a piece of waste land owned by the railway company at a rental of £10 a year!

It was on that ground at Hyde Road that Ardwick made their



debut in the newly formed Second Division in 1892. They ended that first League season in a much better position than their local rivals Newton Heath but Ardwick always struggled against money troubles.

After only two seasons they were so short of cash that they had to pack up. Even the local derby with Newton Heath attracted a crowd of only 7,000!

(Today, Manchester derbies top the 50,000 figure!). However, local businessmen rallied round the club and Ardwick started again — as Manchester City.

Some of the early experiences of the now famous clubs must sound like fairy tales but we assure you they are all true.

For instance — Everton's early players had to provide their own shirts, and that presented prob-

lems. They turned out to play in shirts of all colours. So before their next game the captain's wife dyed all the shirts black! The players were also supplied with red sashes which brought them the nickname of the Black Watch.

In 1885 the Football Association sanctioned professionalism. By then the fortunes of Everton were improving (at the end of their first season at Anfield they showed a profit of several hundred pounds — hundreds not tens of thousands!), so they began to pay their players. "Amateurs" received 15s. to 20s. a game, the pros 30s. Big money!

When they won the League Championship in 1891, the top Everton players were paid £2 a week! But then a year later crisis hit Everton.

The landlord of their ground at Anfield demanded an increased rent. The club refused to pay, offering an annual rent of £180, but were turned down. So they moved lock, stock and barrel to Goodison Park.

Had that not happened there might have only been one famous club on Merseyside — Everton. As it was, the Anfield landlord decided to start his own club and call it Everton F.C. Impossible, of course.

Eventually, he was persuaded to call his new club Liverpool — and that is how Merseyside are now proud to own two of the most famous clubs in Europe.

Liverpool began in 1892 and in their first season won the Lancashire League Cup and the Liverpool Cup. It nearly caused disas-



Top of the page: Gordon McQueen (left) and Joe Jordan cost Man. United a total of almost £900,000. Right: Aston Villa . . . F.A. Cup winners, 1894-95. George Ramsay who served the club for 59 years is first left, front row.

United were broke!



ter. A thief pinched both trophies from the Anfield ground and Liverpool had to find £127 to replace them. Elang went their first season's profits!

It is difficult to realise that football 100 years ago was so vastly different from the game as we know it today. Can you imagine Arsenal being so hard up that they could not afford a set of shirts for their players?

But it happened. When the club was formed in 1886 by workers at the Woolwich Arsenal, where the Navy's big guns were made, they cadged some jerseys from Nottingham Forest. That is why Arsenal have always played in red!

In those early days in South-East London times were hard. For a time they played on an open field and their captain used to collect the "tanners" (6d. to you!) from the few fans before the games began.

Even when Woolwich Arsenal, as they were known in those days, were elected to the Second Division of the League, they were always little more than a "free-kick" from financial disaster.

In 1902 money was so scarce they organised an archery tournament and made a profit of £1,200. With the money they bought THREE new players!

In 1904, The Gunners were promoted to Division One, but although they managed to hold their position they could never attract the crowds in South-East London.

So in 1913, in sheer desperation, faced with near bankruptcy, they decided to pack up everything and move to North London to make a fresh start on the playing field of a Highbury school. You don't need telling that the move has proved a terrific success.

Above: Wolves, 1895 style. They added the Wanderers after a fierce row. Right: Thanks to Nottingham Forest (Martin O'Neill - left - on the ball at Highbury) Arsenal wear red shirts.

Few of the famous clubs of today had a more humble beginning than Spurs. Their first games were played on the local marshes. The carpenter-father of one of the lads made their first goalposts which were left in the care of the local stationmaster after each game.

Later, they had enough money to rent a public pitch in Northumberland Park where their first "gate" amounted to 17 shillings! It was a fortune in those days. But it was a severe rebuke from the F.A. that really put Spurs on the way to fame.

In 1895 they signed a young full-back, as an amateur of course, and presented him with a new pair of boots worth ten shillings.

Someone told the F.A. about this "wicked" deed — signing-on bribes were then illegal — and the Tottenham lads were promptly suspended for a fortnight.

So the young Hotspurs decided to become a professional club, joined the Southern League, took over the market garden at the rear of the now famous White Hart public house and turned it into what is now one of the finest grounds in London.

Aston Villa also had a humble beginning when a group of lads from a Wesleyan Chapel decided to start a football team. George Ramsay, a young Scot working in the district, joined them. Very soon they were good enough to

what similar "birth". In the 1880's there were two clubs in Newcastle — East End and West End.

The East Enders regarded themselves as the top club on Tyneside and in an effort to prove it they recruited the best players by offering them match bonuses — 15s. for a win, 10s. for a draw and an extra bob for every goal they scored.

With such inducements, East End piled on the goals in every match. Alas, it didn't last. With bankruptcy staring the club in the face they decided they could not afford any more bonuses.

Meanwhile, West End were suffering from the support and publicity their rivals were attracting but when the news became known that East End were thinking of packing up they suggested an amalgamation of the two clubs to play at St. James' Park, West End's ground.

So the rivals joined forces — and that's how Newcastle United came into being.



play in local competition as Aston Villa.

George Ramsay became their captain and mentor and remained with the club for 59 years, many of these as manager and secretary of one of the most famous clubs in the game.

Wolves are another club with a great tradition that began way back in 1877 when they were known as St. Luke's, Blakenhall.

Later they joined up with a local cricket club, the Wanderers, and decided to call themselves Wolverhampton Wanderers. That didn't please local rivals Stafford Road, a railway works club, who reckoned they were the top team in Wolverhampton.

After a fierce row the two clubs decided to settle it on the football field, and the Wanderers won 5-1. So that is how Wolverhampton Wanderers began their rise to stardom.

Newcastle United had a some-

Several more of the big clubs became famous after changing their names. Leicester City were known originally as Leicester Fosse because most of the old boys of Wyggeston School who formed the club came from the West End of town near the old Roman Fosse. That was in 1884.

Cardiff City set out on their career in 1899 as Riverside F.C., an amateur side whose headquarters and "changing room" was the kitchen at the home of a club official!

Coventry City's original title was Singers' F.C. It had nothing to do with choirboys. The first members of the new club were workers at Singers' cycle factory.

But we could go on for hours talking about the changes that have taken place in the trials and tribulations of so many clubs before they became famous...

BROKEN ANKLE

"BEGAN"

DAVID'S CAREER

David Price (main picture) and team-mate Frank Stapleton (right).



DAVID Price, one of the new heroes of Highbury, came very close to leaving Arsenal a few years ago. Ironically, it was only the fact that he broke an ankle that he stayed with The Gunners.

Price, 22, made his first team debut in 1974 and the England Schoolboy international was expected to make a big impact quickly.

Price made a few fleeting appearances, but they were only for injured players and as soon as the established star was fit again... out went the blond-haired youngster.

In 1975, Price DID, in fact, leave Highbury and went on loan to Peterborough for two months. Price did well and liked the set-up; The Posh were keen to buy the Arsenal teenager, but couldn't raise the transfer fee The Gunners were asking.

Price returned to North London somewhat disillusioned and admits that he would have been happy to drop down the League to secure regular first team football.

He recalls: "I'd resigned myself to leaving Arsenal one way or the other when I broke the ankle."

"This, of course, made things even more confusing

as I could hardly get away when I wasn't fit.

"It was then that I realised my future was still at Highbury. My contract had ended and even though I was out of action they offered me a new one.

"To me, that was a magnificent gesture and it changed my attitude. I'm sure had I not broken my ankle that I'd have signed for another club. As it happened, being injured kept me at Highbury and I'm delighted with the way things have gone since then.

"I was becoming too accustomed to playing in the reserves and this time last year I made a vow that 1977/78 would be the make-or-break for me.

"I'd played in just 14 League games while the likes of Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton and David O'Leary were progressing much faster.

"At 22, I simply had to establish myself or I really would be forced to move on."

Now, Price is an established Gunner and has held off the

challenge of others.

Price may not grab the headlines as much as some of his team-mates, although his contribution to the team is no less important than the international stars.

As the anchor man in midfield, he creates plenty of chances and openings for fellow schemers Liam Brady, Alan Hudson and Graham Rix to go forward.

Price has also weighed in with a few goals himself and while they may be more scarce than Malcolm Macdonald's... they're usually very spectacular!

Price admits the return to Highbury of coach Don Howe has helped him.

"I was only an apprentice when Don was here before. Even so, he went out of his way to get to know everyone.

"He's doing a great job now and I think we did better last season than we'd expected.

"The best is still to come from the side, though. We have the right blend of youth and experience and can match anyone for skill.

"I'm thrilled to be part of the set-up — and with a full season behind me I'm confident of doing even better next time round."



Ian Purdie (Motherwell, left) and John Hansen (Partick Thistle) tussle for the ball during a Premier Division match last season.

GOALS, of course, are hardly the stock-in-trade of Danny McGrain Esq.

Comparing me to Gerdie Muller is just a bit ridiculous. Not that it upsets me. Everyone has his job to do in football... and well, Muller isn't the best full-back in the world.

As it happens I can't remember tucking one away since the 1975-76 season when I scored in the Glasgow Cup Semi-Final against Partick Thistle. And though I say it myself, a cracker it was, too!

I seem to remember running the length of the park before notching. That same season I scored an in-off job at Arbroath... and the total for the season was roughly two more than I score most winters.

So instead of talking about my own infrequent efforts, let me take you down memory lane to the greatest goals I can remember being scored.

The first one that leaps to mind was that magnificent volley on the

Tartan Talk

DANNY MCGRAIN

ing of Rangers in the 1976-77 League Cup Semi-Final?

Trying to look at it fairly — honest — I thought Aberdeen were lucky to beat us in the Final, but there can be no doubt about their superiority over Rangers in the Semi.

And Jarvie's magical effort really was the icing on their cake.

There is of course, a difference between great goals and important goals.

The most vital I've seen was Joe Jordan's header for Scotland



picked it up on the halfway line and moved forward. The Sheffield defence kept retreating and George moved forward, quickening his pace. He looked to have held it too long, but then he broke right beating four men all the same way and just as he seemed to have gone too far again he shot on the turn and screwed the ball in.

Two European Cup Final goodies spring to mind. How about vintage Tommy Gemmell for Celtic in the 1967 Final with a rocket from outside the box which equalised Inter Milan's penalty-opener and set the Lisbon Lions on the way to victory as the first British side to lift the trophy.

Or go back only a year to Terry McDermott for Liverpool with that brilliant goal which proved the inspiration to beat Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome.

And I can think of two World Cup epics.

Johan Cruyff for Holland in West Germany against Brazil. The cross from Neeskens and there was the maestro. Not as good, however, as that immortal Carlos Alberto drive for Brazil in the 1970 Final.

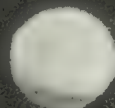
Remember? The Brazilians were toying with Italy 3-1 ahead and then Pele rolls the ball to his right off the outside of his boot.

In comes the Brazilian skipper like a steam train. He whacked it and shattered for ever the myth that full-backs can't shoot.

Finally, my favourite in this, such a glorious year for Scotland. Wales v. Scotland in Cardiff in 1975. Arthur Duncan sent the ball across and whack... Bruce Rioch showed no mercy.

Golden goals... don't worry, lads, I'll get one some day!

Danny McGrain



'Goals I'll never forget'

turn by our own Roy Aitken in the 2-2 draw against Rangers at Ibrox last season.

Johnny Doyle floated the ball across from the right and young Roy met it absolutely perfectly with his right foot and nearly took the net away. Derek Parlane scored both of Rangers' goals in that match, but Roy matched his performance with a double for us. And that volley really was unforgettable.

Or how about Drew Jarvie's drive from outside the box in Aberdeen's amazing 5-1 thrash-

against Czechoslovakia at Hampden in a 1974 qualifying tie. It gave Scotland a 2-1 victory to assure us of a place in the Finals in West Germany.

Other favourites? Kenny Dalglish, inevitably, for Celtic against Dundee United at Tannadice. He took a free-kick on his chest and then volleyed it in at the far post before it hit the deck.

That one really was a bit special. But so too was George Best's for Manchester United against Sheffield United.

Bestie, inimitable as ever,

Joe Jordan rises majestically to head Scotland's winning goal v. Czechoslovakia at Hampden and send them through to the 1974 World Cup Finals.





TREVOR CHERRY Leeds Utd.

German's New Bomber

A look at KLAUS FISCHER, who has taken over from the legendary Gerd Müller as West Germany's goal-king.

FOR all Germans who have watched or followed football in the last decade, Gerd Müller is the undoubted *goal-king* of West Germany. And long after he retires, even through to the next century, his name and the legend will live on.

Gerd Müller himself admits, as everyone else knows, that he is not a great football player, but his "nose" ... his instinct for the goal-chance, is unique in football, and will rightly earn him a place in the history of the world game.

German fans call him "*der bomber*", but in fact Müller, 32, has never been a bomber. Gerd has never been known to let loose a bomb of a shot from long range. True "bomber" was Müller's predecessor in the national team, the great Uwe Seeler. Uwe was the bomber in his time, and Müller has his own, different methods to get goals.

Müller's qualities fall into two main categories:

In a confined space, challenged by two or three opponents, Müller is so quick both on the turn and over the first three to five yards. Turn and shoot, sprint and shoot. But always from close range.

Müller's nose enables him to pick up anything loose around the goal-area. A shot hits the bar or post and runs loose ... and Gerd is there tapping it in. A shot is parried by the enemy goalkeeper but is not cleanly held, and Müller is there to score again.

Müller has weaknesses in terms of skill, but he learned in the last few years to make very good one-two's, specially with Franz Beckenbauer and Uli Hoeness.

He often goes back to help when Bayern are under pressure. Gerd works hard and is always physically combatant. But his feet are quicker than his head — he doesn't think what to do, he just does it from instinct, and in the goalmouth that means goals, for opponents seem to need time to think.

Müller rarely gets goals with his head or from "grenades" from 25 to 30 yards, as Seeler did, but despite this, Müller scored more goals for Germany.



Klaus Fischer (above) has the same goalscoring instincts as the great Gerd Müller (below).



Müller, himself, thinks that at last, West Germany has found his true successor for the national team in Klaus Fischer of Schalke 04.

"Fischer," says Müller, "is cast in the same mould as Uwe Seeler. He is very strong in the air and he hits shots from all angles and from all distances, even up to 30 yards, just like Uwe Seeler did. Fischer is very much like Seeler. Fischer wanders more to the wings than I do, for he needs space to play in and wanders to open the defence.

"But he is now undoubtedly the number one for the national team."

Müller, himself, is far from finished as a scorer. Günter Netzer saw him last season and said admiringly: "Müller is still a great player and has a lot more goals in him before he retires."

Müller's official record at the start of last season was: 332 goals in the Bundesliga; 72 in the German F.A. Cup; 67 in European competitions; 12 in the German League Cup; 68 in the national team; 35 in one season in the Second Division (South) and four more in the promotion qualifying competition.

Total: 590 "official" goals, but no one has kept count of Müller's goals in friendly matches, and he has played very many. This must mean another 500, which gives him more than 1,000.

For the new man "King" Klaus Fischer, Christmas Day came early in 1976. On October 9th, Schalke were away to Bayern Munich at the Olympic

Stadium in Munich.

Schalke hammered Bayern by the unbelievable score of 7-0. Fischer smashed four of the goals past Sepp Maier, who was near to tears in the dressing-room at the end. This was the greatest disaster of Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga history.

Fischer's career as an international player was held up by two factors: until after the 1974 World Cup, Gerd Müller was an automatic choice. But even after Müller retired, the second point prevented Fischer from taking over: Back in 1971, Schalke and Fischer were involved in the Bundesliga scandal.

Schalke lost 0-1 against Arminia Bielefeld, and allegedly, Fischer received 2,000 Marks for his part in throwing the game.

Among the F.A. decisions was one that Klaus Fischer (with others) could not play for the national team.

But the F.A. decided that all sins should be forgiven, and at the start of the New Year in 1977, the door to the national team was opened for Klaus.

When Fischer got his chance, he took it with both hands. Since his first game in April, 1977, Fischer has averaged around a goal a game.

"To follow so soon after Müller is to carry a big burden in the national team," says Klaus.

Fischer, 27, who is fourth in the all time goal-getters list for the Bundesliga with 156 goals, continues: "I am really sorry that he stopped his international career, even if it did clear the way for me. It would have been great if I could have played alongside Gerd."

Indeed, every country would be happy to have such centre-forwards like Gerd Müller and Klaus Fischer. They are a fearsome pair in the Bundesliga.

KARL-HEINZ JENS.

BOOST FOR AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS

A scheme to develop soccer skills in youngsters is being tried out by the North American Soccer League.

Several clubs are staging youth games before their main fixture, giving the kids the chance to play on a top-class pitch and experience a big crowd atmosphere.

Generally, there are only a few hundred people present to see the kick-off of a youth game, but as spectators arrive for the big match, the youngsters can finish with an appreciative audience of 20,000 or more.

There are 300,000 players throughout the States, aged between six and 19, whose clubs belong to state associations which in turn are affiliated to the United States Soccer Federation. Frank Kelly, Chairman of the New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association, said N.A.S.L. scouts regularly watch the junior games as well as recruiting from high school and college teams.

"And it is quite something for a 12-year-old winger to beat the goalie and have 25,000 people applaud," he said. "It's not something he'll forget and can only increase the effort he puts into his game."



'L' FOR MADMAN!

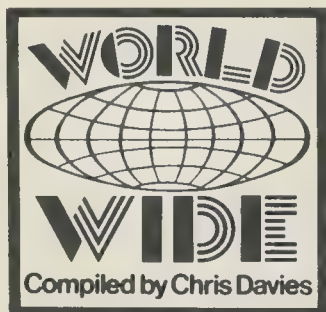
ONE of the greatest characters in South America is Hugo Gatti, goalkeeper of Boca Juniors. Sadly, a knee injury kept him out of the World Cup, but he's still playing for the South Americans.

Gatti is known as El Loco — The Madman — because of his unpredictable acts. In fact, fans speak about him as El Loco rather than Gatti.

As the picture shows, he even has a big 'L' on his jersey for his 'name'!

THERE was nearly a serious diplomatic incident at the start of the recent friendly match between Colombia and the People's Republic of China. The Colombian band played the national anthem of . . . Taiwan!

VENEZUELAN club Portuguesa were expelled from South America's Copa Libertadores following nasty incidents after their 1-1 home draw with Paraguay's Cerro Pertenio. Shortly after the match, Colombian referee Orlando Sánchez was insulted and assaulted by a group of fans that included at least one of the members of the Portuguesa board of directors.



THE Spanish F.A. have banned Elche defender Insaurralde from playing for the club, after deciding that the Argentinian's claim to have Spanish ancestors is false. As Elche already have their full quota of foreign players, their signing of Insaurralde was illegal.



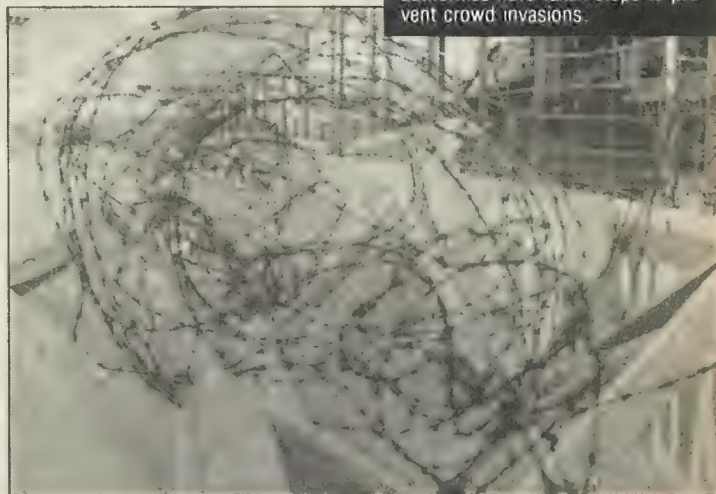
Hamburger SV's coach and subs keep warm during the game in Cologne thanks to a gas fire by their bench. The result didn't warm them, though . . . HSV lost 6-1.

FINED FOR FEIGNING INJURY

ATLÉTICO Madrid's reserve goalkeeper Mariano Tirapu was fined £670 and suspended for three months for pretending to be injured! Tirapu, who's repeatedly "invented" injuries to avoid training, immediately had strong words to say about the club doctor Enrique Ibáñez, and a row

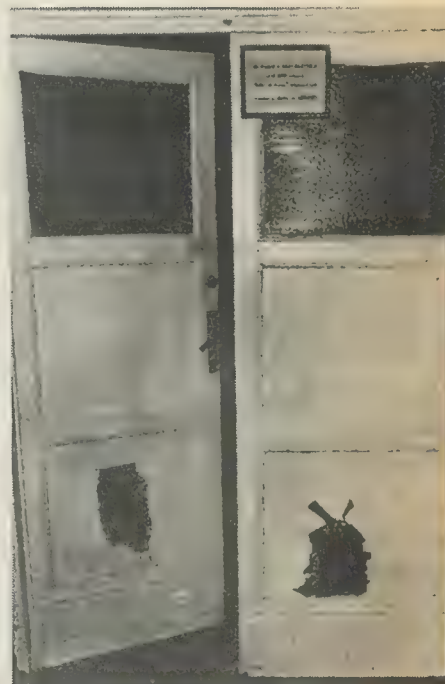
of gigantic proportions developed within the Spanish club.

The doctor is now suing Tirapu for slander, and has even accused the player of holding parties and getting drunk while he was in hospital for medical observation!



FORMER Mexico goalkeeper Antonio Carbajal is the only man to have played in five World Cups (1950-1966). During his career he never earned more than £500 a month and reckons that the players of today are grossly over-paid.

This is the Malta Stadium where Wales will play in the European Championship. The sunny holiday island has been hit by soccer hooliganism recently and the authorities have taken steps to prevent crowd invasions.



This is the visitors' dressing-room at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. At half-time, Real Sociedad were 0-2 down and, in disgust, this is what they did to the dressing-room doors.

Real are now considering installing metal doors . . .



Far left: Charlie George cooks up a storm of goals for Derby. He dishes out the arrogance as well. About as modest as a baked Alaska, cheerful Charlie admits to not only being a good player, but a fine chef. He's certainly a bit tasty himself ... ask Derby fans. Left: Bristol Rovers' young striker Paul Randall and girlfriend Lisa, are hoping a record number of goals will spin off his talented boots next term.



Northampton Town's George Reilly made the most of an overnight stay in Torquay last season. With time to kill before the League match, George relaxed on a local beach. The sun didn't shine on him for long, however. Torquay won 2-1.

THE STARS RELAX...

OFF THE PARK



Above: Orient striker Peter Kitchen helps his wife Susan in the garden of their Epping home. Far Left: Liverpool's Ian Callaghan goes through a song-and-dance routine with Patsy Ann Scott during rehearsals for his special testimonial show last term. Left: Sheffield Wednesday goal-getter Roger Wylde, scored with Bill Nelson (left), leader of top rock group Be-Bop Deluxe, when they met recently. Below: Eric Gates of Ipswich washes his cares away with a soak in the club's bath.



BIRMINGHAM City's Jim Montgomery has been a model of consistency and to all would-be goalkeepers a fine example to follow.

He has reached the heady heights of professional football — and hit the low spots. One day tasting F.A. Cup Final success and within four seasons discarded by his club and apparently on the scrap-heap. But Monty has bounced back.

"I was first spotted," says Montgomery, "like so many others, playing for my school team. The headmaster wrote to

Town 2-0 in the Quarter-Finals we knew we had a chance.

"Then we pulled off the apparent near-impossible by beating Arsenal 2-1 in the Semis at Hillsborough."

That result was a shock — but the incredible happened at Wembley.

"Yes, we beat Leeds United," remembers Monty. "It was a fantastic day for the club. Ian Porterfield scored in the first-half and we managed to withstand tremendous pressure."

With typical modesty, Jim failed to mention his performance.

But after just eight games of that campaign, manager Bob Stokoe, paid around £80,000 to Bolton Wanderers for their number one, Barry Siddall. Monty's reign at Roker Park was over.

He says: "I realised there was no way the club were going to spend that sort of money for a reserve.

"I went to Southampton on loan and although I was impressed with the set-up at The Dell, it was too much for me to travel to the South Coast.

"So it was back to Sunderland, until Birmingham City came in for me. It was a great opportunity for me to play First Division football again and I jumped at the chance.

"Just savouring the atmosphere and being involved in the big time was a tremendous

Monty has bounced back with Birmingham

my local club, Sunderland, recommending me.

"The physiotherapist John Waters, who is still at Roker Park, came along and watched me and I was invited for trials."

That was the start of a long association Montgomery was to have with the club. He signed professional forms in October, 1960 and made his League debut in February, 1962, at the age of 18.

"I honestly thought I would spend my entire career at Roker Park," says the likeable 'keeper. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

"I was in two promotion sides at Roker. And of course, there was our tremendous F.A. Cup Final success in 1973.

"The earlier games against Reading and Notts County gave no indication of what was to come. But when we beat Luton

Whenever Leeds got past the defence, Monty was there and he pulled off some unbelievable saves that afternoon.

"It was a blur," he says, "and it wasn't till the next day that it sank in that Sunderland had won the F.A. Cup for the second time in the club's history."

In 1975-76, the fair-haired Jim helped The Rokerites to promotion from the Second Division for the second time in his career and he was looking forward to another spell in Division One.

Jim makes a spectacular save from Leeds hot-shot Peter Lorimer during the 1973 F.A. Cup Final. Sunderland caused a sensation by winning 1-0.

tonic for me. I also displaced their regular 'keeper Dave Latchford and played 12 of the last 14 League games as City just avoided relegation."

Willie Bell was the man responsible for saving Jim's career and bringing him to St. Andrews, where Montgomery has played under three managers. Bell, Sir Alf Ramsey and present boss, Jim Smith.

"Mr. Smith has had the biggest influence," says the 34-year-old. "When he arrived we were deep in relegation trouble but we soon picked up and started climbing the First Division table.

"So the future looks rosy for Birmingham City."

And for Jimmy Montgomery if he can continue to play with the consistency that has become his trademark over the years.



THE fans at Boundary Park were obviously expecting something from their new £40,000 signing Steve Taylor when he made his debut for Oldham against Notts County in the middle of October, and the ex-Bolton striker didn't disappoint. He scored twice in Athletic's 2-1 win.

The first was in typical Steve Taylor fashion as he raced 30 yards before planting the ball past a helpless McManus in the County goal.

Says Steve: "It was a fabulous long through ball from Mick Bernard. He was playing his first game for Oldham as well and he had a splendid baptism."

"It was the first victory for ten matches and I think everybody was a little bit relieved to get a win under their belts."

"The first I knew about any transfer was from what I read in the local newspaper. I live in Oldham and I spotted that the club were interested in signing me."

"By that time I was thinking of going to see Bolton boss Ian Greaves for a move because he was about to sign Frank Worthington."

Good Club

"Then it happened all at once. Ian called me into the office and explained the position. The two clubs negotiated a fee, which took some time, then the decision was left up to me. I thought about it

football's a funny game and these things happen.

"I was a little bit disappointed with Bolton last season because I didn't think I had a fair chance. I only played two games — one League and one League Cup, and it wasn't enough to prove what I could do. After all, I did score 20 goals in 32 appearances for them the previous term."

"Oldham are a more direct side than Bolton, which suits my style. They play the long ball over the top where I can use my speed and running, rather than checking off facing with my back to goals."

"The pattern of play is 4-3-3, with winger Alan Groves playing wide and Vic Halom and myself as the striking pair up-front."

"In all, they're a wonderful set of players at Boundary Park and Jimmy Frizzell, the manager, is top class. He doesn't say anything



STEVE TAYLOR at home with Oldham

and I decided it would be better if I moved.

"Obviously, I have regrets at leaving Bolton because they're such a good club and looks as if they're going places now they are back in the First Division."

"I feel a little sad in a way because I'd been there since I left school, plus the fact that they're a great bunch of lads."

"But the thing is, I wouldn't have been happy playing in the reserves. I wanted first team football."

"I'm glad I signed now because I'm really enjoying my football. Oldham is my home town team and it does give me a thrill to be playing for them. I used to watch them as a lad."

"I know my transfer must have surprised many people, but

special. He leaves it to us to go out and play."

"Last season we gained confidence in ourselves at the turn of the year and went from strength to strength to consolidate a good position in the Second Division."

"Where do I set my own personal sights? I want to do well for Oldham Athletic and prove that I'm worth the £40,000 that Jimmy Frizzell paid for me."

"He's stuck his neck out. Oldham aren't the wealthiest of clubs and it's a big fee for them."

"If we build on last season's progress then who knows? We could easily follow my old club Bolton Wanderers into the First Division."

'I WAS KICKED BACK INTO FOOTBALL' Says Martyn Busby (Q.P.R.)

MARTYN Busby was a depressed and disillusioned footballer when Notts County paid Queens Park Rangers £34,000 for him in November, 1976.

Yet ten months later Busby, his enthusiasm rekindled, returned to Loftus Road as part of new manager Frank Sibley's rebuilding plans.

Sibley, a former Q.P.R. captain, spent £80,000 in a successful attempt to lure Busby back to a club he feared had stifled his career.

"It was a fantastic surprise when I heard that Frank was interested in me," admitted the long-striding midfielder.

"They were one of the last clubs I envisaged joining, but I had no second thoughts about signing."

"A lot of people classified me as a First Division reject when I left Rangers, and so I have plenty to prove. It is just like starting all over again."

Busby, an England youth international, made his League debut for Q.P.R. as a 17-year-old against Leicester in April, 1970.

His mixture of stamina — inherited from his mother, an international athlete — and skill made him one of football's most promising youngsters.

Then, in the combative atmosphere of a West London derby with Fulham at Craven Cottage in October, 1972, his career almost came to a premature end.

Brought down heavily by Paul Went, Busby lay in agony for four minutes while his fractured right leg was put in a splint.

"At that moment I feared that, at 19, my career was finished. Things had been going very well for me, and to break a leg was a bitter disappointment."

"I was on the way to establishing myself as a first team regular, but the injury sapped all my confidence."

Martyn missed the rest of the season, but received some novel help in his fight to full fitness from brother Viv, the Stoke striker.

"I trained throughout the summer of 1973, and Viv toned me up for the new season by constantly kicking me," Martyn recalls.

"Viv made us practise block tackles on a school field near our home, and every time I went past him he kicked me on my suspect leg."

"I was annoyed at first — but then realised he was trying to help. Knowing my leg could stand up to that punishment overcame a mental block I had about tackling, and gave me the confidence I needed."

"Unfortunately, I rarely had an extended run in the first team after



that, and did not see eye to eye with Dave Sexton."

"I became frustrated, and desperately wanted regular first team action. But I only had it when Dave let me go to Portsmouth on a month's loan."

"There is no incentive in reserve team football, playing in front of about 200 people."

"I could not go fast enough when County wanted me. Knowing I was virtually guaranteed a first team place was a tremendous boost."

Martyn is now committed to helping Rangers re-establish themselves as a feared First Division force.

"There is a better atmosphere than when I left Rangers. Morale is good, and the players are determined to make the club successful," he says.

Four players

'THE HARD MEN

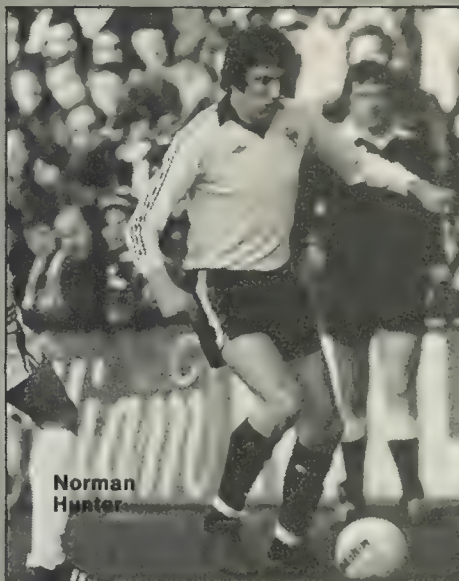
JOHN HOLLINS
(Q.P.R.)



'Norman Hunter has more skill than given credit for'

I LOOK for a clear distinction between a hard player and a dirty player. We all do unfair things from time to time but it's the deliberate, dangerous foul that turns me against people.

I'd call Tommy Smith a hard player: but not a dirty one. He was a hard man and still is although he's mellowed considerably in the last few seasons.



Smith takes stick as well as hands it out and at the end of the day, you'd come off the pitch and have a beer with him. That's part of the game and a very important part.

Norman Hunter is, I suppose, everyone's epitome of a hard player. But to my mind, he never received the praise he should have done. Despite his reputation Norman is a fine

player with a lot of skill.

I rate the hard men of the game as the ones that play it hard but fair. They don't go out there to break your leg, but you know you'll feel it if they tackle you.

Man. City's Asa Hartford is a tough little customer. He gives it and takes it without complaining.

He is what I call a hard man. Asa can stop an opponent turning it on, at the same time play well himself. That's the ideal way.

Another tough player to face is Ipswich's Brian Talbot. Like Hartford, he's very hard, and gets on with it in a steady, quiet way. Brian isn't dirty but he'll go for everything. He's so determined I think he'd run through a brick wall to get to the ball.

I suppose a few foreigners are really the players who have stuck in my throat as being hard in the sense of filthy. I remember playing against Roma when I was at Chelsea — they really got stuck into us.

And there was a lovely little fellow who used to play for the German club, Borussia Dortmund. I can't remember his name because it was a few years ago but he used to kick you up in the air if you got anywhere near him. You didn't go for much with him around.

In the English League, I don't think there are really many dirty players around like that. There might be players who go out looking for an argument occasionally but thankfully, they're few and far between.

BRIAN FLYNN
(Leeds United)



'No real villains in our game'

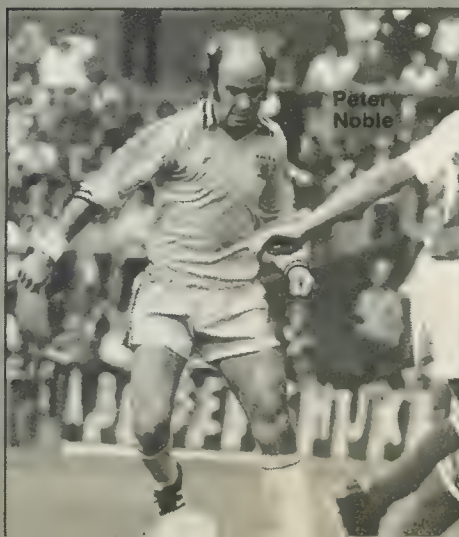
NORMAN Hunter, Tommy Smith and Duncan Forbes may be the usual nominations for "Tough men of League soccer". But I'd pick a player I know as well as anyone — my former Burnley club-mate Peter Noble.

Noble is as hard as anyone I know around — and that means he's pretty tough. I don't reckon they come much tougher. Peter doesn't kick people behind the referee's back — he lets them know they've been in a tackle though.

He's not a big guy but he'll take the stick as well as handing it out. That's the sort of man I like — a real professional. He is the classic example to my way of thinking of a hard, but fair player.

People might say I would take more stick than anyone because I'm only a little guy. But I've got to be honest — I can't think of any real villains in my experience in League football. Some players are undoubtedly harder than others but I could count the real rogues on the fingers on almost half a hand.

I never believe in naming players like that, so I'm keeping secret about them. Anyway they're not worth worrying about.



I found the Second Division much more physical than the First. People certainly shouldn't run away with the idea that the strong men are only in the top League. I reckon midfield players especially have a far harder time in the Second Division. You've got no time to play constructive football and the boots go in there pretty hard.

Ian Evans of Crystal Palace is a player I'd pick out as being hard. He isn't dirty, mind, but strictly professional and very tough with it. He's a big lad and he uses his strength and physical ability in the tackles and challenges.

Of all the midfield players I know, I'd say the toughest, the hardest of them all, is Brighton's Brian Horton. He's not hard just from the point of view of physical strength in the tackle. It's also his driving determination and ability to keep going that makes him so hard to play against. He seems able to take knocks and just carry on whereas a lot of other players — if they got the same treatment — would go off. Brian drives on not only himself but also his team-mates.

Generally, though, I believe British football comes pretty well top in any Fair Play League. Look at Italian football — our game is nothing like as dirty as that. I'm glad that's the case over here — I'm sure our fans get a better deal from hard, but completely fair players.

comment on... OF SOCCER'

MICK LYONS
(Everton)



'I hate soccer sneaks'

LIKE John, I believe it's important to disassociate the two things — a hard player and a dirty player who I call a sneaky player. Like the foreigner I met when we went on pre-season tour to Holland.

We were playing against Roda and their centre-forward gave me the sharpest rabbit punch I've ever seen either on the field or on television! He gave me a rabbit punch on the side and then another on my face. That's the worst I have ever known admittedly but I don't reckon you get that sort of thing in English

football.

On the Continent, they're up to all those sort of sneaky tricks. That's why I prefer playing in English League soccer — you know that you are more than likely to get a good hard, but perfectly fair game.

To me, a guy like Andy Gray is a hard player — very hard in fact because of the stick he takes. He's always in the thick of the action and he'll go back for another load of it after he's had treatment for one lot. He'll take stick, give it and do it all the right spirit.

Dave Watson the Manchester City and England centre-half is by no means a dirty player but he's very strong.

Perhaps the best example of that sort of tough, hard player is Joe Jordan of Man. United. Look at the knocks and injuries that he takes and always gets over ready to take more.

Duncan Forbes of Norwich must be pretty high in a list of hard men. But I tend to think most defenders are naturally hard because they have to be — they're there to do a lot of tackling and if you don't relish the physical contact stuff as a defender, you're not much use to the side.

Our own Terry Darracott is a hard guy, too. I've often played against him in five-a-side matches on our training ground and if Terry tackles you, you certainly know it.

As I say, I'd rate them far more in terms of true hard ability than some other men who might have reputations as tough nuts but deep down, don't like it when they get some of the same treatment back.



Dave Watson

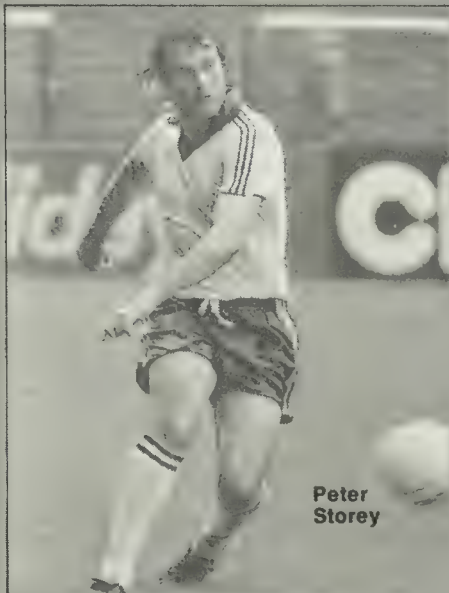
DUNCAN FORBES
(Norwich City)



'All successful teams need men like Peter Storey'

ISUPPOSE I'm known as a hard player myself — but I've had to take second best from some strikers from time to time. My battles with the big men up front have been going on for some years now and believe me, there are some tough strikers around. Anyone who thinks the "hard men of soccer" are only defenders, has got it dead wrong.

I remember a guy called Keith Leonard of



Peter Storey

Aston Villa — he was a hard player to play against. He used his arms a lot in the air against you and I've had broken noses quite often — they're really part and parcel of a centre-half's game.

I believe the toughest guy in League soccer today is Joe Jordan. He takes a load of stick and dishes it out, too. When you play against

big Joe you know you're in for a hard, physical afternoon.

As regards defenders, my hardest man must be Stoke's Dennis Smith. He was the tough guy of that Stoke side for some years and he got some atrocious injuries. I think he broke a leg three times but kept on fighting back.

I wouldn't say there are many really nasty players around in English football. I've met a few Yugoslavians when we've been on tour that have come into that category, though.

I always had some battles with Peter Osgood in his days at Chelsea and Southampton. At times, Ossie could dish it out a fair bit and I've felt it sometimes when I've been playing against him. But he came to Norwich for a spell on loan a year or so ago and we got on famously. It just proved you can have some battles on the pitch and get on as friends.

Other big strong centre-forwards who have impressed me are Roger Davies, who left Derby for FC Bruges and is now at Leicester and also Joe Royle although to a lesser extent. As far as defenders go, I'd be surprised if there were two harder tacklers than Peter Storey and Norman Hunter.

Storey, now retired from the game after a spell at Fulham, was the real backbone of that Arsenal Double winning side of the early 1970's. He did a really effective job for them as a tackler and a man able to take a striker out of the game. You need someone like that in any successful side to take care of the opposition's star man up-front.

"Barry Sheene — alone on two wheels."

**ANDY
GRAY**
writes for you

OF all the sports personalities outside of soccer, the one I admire most of all is motor bike Champion Barry Sheene. The field to choose from is large, indeed . . . almost endless.

I particularly like Barry because he's reached the top by himself; that is, he isn't a member of a team like, say, a footballer is. Once he gets on his machine he's very much alone and in some ways it takes even more determination and character to succeed in that respect.

Barry was awarded the M.B.E. earlier this year and he certainly deserved it. He's a world Champion and Britain can't boast too many of those (I'm writing this before the World Cup, so my fingers are crossed for Scotland!).

I'm not exactly a big fan of motor cycle racing, but I have the greatest admiration for the likeable Barry Sheene.

I like most sports. I'd love to be able to play more golf, yet somehow I never seem to find enough time to really get into the game.

Most footballers are part-time golfers, too, and I have some happy memories of playing at St. Andrews, that beautiful course in Scotland.

At Villa we have one or two very useful golfers, notably Jimmy Rimmer and the boss, Ron Saunders.

The manager doesn't impose too many restrictions on us. Obviously we wouldn't play another sport the day before a game — that would be silly.

More and more players are taking up squash to sharpen their reflexes — Brian Clough is squash mad, I believe. Squash is an exciting and competitive sport and one I enjoy.

While it's ideal for keeping in peak condition, you have to be careful as turning an ankle is easily done. Squash is particularly useful during the summer when you're not training full-time.

A lot of players like a day at the races, but horses and gambling have

never interested me. I can count the bets I've had in my life on one hand. I've never got into gambling and I can't say I ever really want to.

One show I always try to watch is Superstars. I think most sportsmen, professional or amateur, wonder how they'd do in the various tests of strength, stamina and skill.

I think I'd be okay at sprinting, although I wouldn't say I'd beat Malcolm Macdonald who has been unbeatable over 100 metres. I also like to think I'd do well in the penalties — if I were allowed to take them!

Those arm-dips look frightening, though, don't they? I'd do a lap of honour if I managed ten! Seriously, I wouldn't win many points in the gym because our training isn't geared towards this specific type of exercise.

You may not be aware that I'm the table-tennis Champion of Villa Park! Very useful with the small bat and I aim to keep my crown next season!

I used to play a fair amount of snooker when I was with Dundee United. Possibly too much as a pal

and myself used to spend most afternoons in the snooker hall in Dundee. Now, I rarely play as I have so many other things to do.

I don't share the Scots' traditional dislike of cricket. The county game doesn't interest me very much — attendances are poor and the game at that level appears to need the kiss of life.

The one-day matches and Tests are different, though, and England against Australia or the West Indies can never be dull. Or very rarely.

It was sad to see the upheaval caused by Kerry Packer's World Series cricket, although I must say I can't blame the players concerned for signing on.

For a long time, cricketers have been the poor relations in sport and Mr. Packer offered them financial security with lucrative contracts.

Many of the players were nearing the end of their careers anyway and I would never criticise anyone for bettering himself.

Rugby Union? I try to keep up with

'Why I admire Barry Sheene...'





"I like Bjorn Borg's ice-cool temperament."

the big matches. I've never been to Murrayfield in Edinburgh — perhaps I should have gone last season to cheer Scotland on . . . unfortunately they got the wooden spoon in the Triple Crown.

I'm an athletics fan and, like Barry Sheene, admire their solo involvement. Ian Stewart is the local hero in the Midlands and the Scot runs miles each week in training, often alone.

I'm glad to see young Steve Ovett emerging as a potential Olympic Champion — I like his confident attitude.

As soon as the World Cup ended, Wimbledon began — the world's number one tennis tournament. If I can, I'm always glued to my T.V. especially during the final stages.

The tennis star I like most is the Swede, Bjorn Borg, who seems to have the perfect temperament for big-time professional sport. I've never seen him lose his cool and there aren't many sportsmen who don't explode once in a while.

Reading the Focus On feature in SHOOT, every other player wants to meet Muhammad Ali. I'm a fan of The Greatest, too.

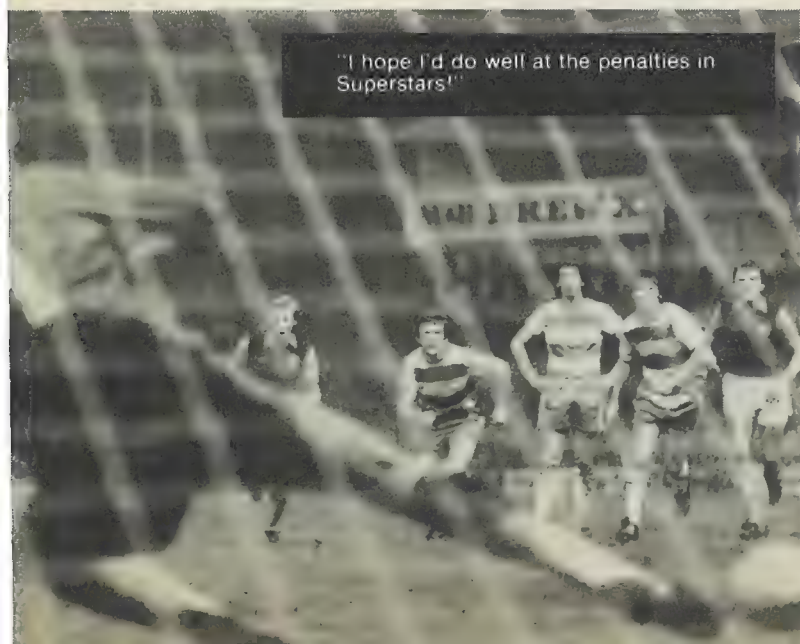
As I write, he isn't World Champion, but I wouldn't bet against him regaining his title yet again. Even at 36 Ali still has a special magic all of his own.

My plans for the summer were changed when Ally MacLeod did not pick me for the World Cup Finals. Instead, I spent some time at home in Scotland visiting relatives.

I shan't be doing too much exercise this summer. The occasional swim . . . the odd round of golf, perhaps . . . but it's been a long season and at 22 I don't have to train all the time to stay in shape. I've got that to look forward to later!

See you in SHOOT.

And. Neal



"I hope I'd do well at the penalties in Superstars!"

STAN CUMMINS~ BORO'S 'TINY TERROR'

JUST before last Christmas an 18-year-old Middlesbrough player knocked on the door of manager John Neal and asked: "When am I going to get in the first team?"

Neal did not bawl him out. He sat him down, talked to him like a father, and said, "Don't be impatient. Your turn will come."

Now Stan Cummins has established a first team place and is a crowd favourite. A great future is predicted for him by people who should know. Jack Charlton says: "This kid could be a sensation."

Harold Shepherdson points out: "He reminds me of Jimmy Greaves with his finishing."

Yet Stan, 19 in December, is only 5 ft. 4 in. With that height he has earned titles like 'The Tiny Terror' . . . 'The Mighty Atom' . . . 'Boro's Bundle of Mischief'.

Neal admits: "Stan is a bit special. I did not mind him seeking me out to push for a first team place. It showed ambition. A little arrogance, perhaps, but that is not a bad thing for a professional footballer."

A NATURAL

"Stan is the best finisher in the club. When he gets the ball on his left foot near goal you can wait for it to hit the back of the net. He is a natural scorer. There are no hysterics from him. In fact, he shows more emotion when other players score."

In the derby with Newcastle United at St James' Park, Cummins hit a cracking goal, then turned quietly to go back to the centre of the field. When centre-forward Billy Ashcroft scored, Stan was thrilled to bits.

Shepherdson, Boro's assistant-manager, and England's trainer for two globe-trotting decades, has watched the development of the young forward since he was 11.

Ray Grant, a club representative, told me he had seen the best little footballer in his life. I went along to a Ferryhill school match for a look at him.

Ray was right. Cummins was only a tiny tot. But there was an abundance of talent and he went into areas where angels fear to tread. We brought him to Ayresome Park for training during school holidays. We had X-ray prediction tests that showed Stan would reach 5 ft. 6 in. when fully developed.

Cummins proved himself in the juniors and the reserves. Then he did his stuff in the First Division. He not only excites the fans. He excites his own team mates.

"People are calling him a



second Will Mannion. That is wrong. They are different types of players. I would liken Stan to another famous player. He reminds me of Jimmy Greaves the way he sticks a ball in the net."

Cummins is a level-headed youngster. Headlines and crowd adulation will not affect him.

"There is no chance of me becoming big headed. My team-mates would not let me. They would knock me down."

"My size does not worry me. I don't get kicked off the park by defenders. I have found them hard but fair. In any event, I have faith in referees. They will protect me."

"The fact that I am small has been a driving force. I have been determined to prove so many people wrong. There are a lot of Newcastle fans where I live, at Dean Park, Ferryhill, so I got extra satisfaction from my goal at St. James' Park. And the fact that Boro will be the North-East's top club next season."

"A number of clubs were interested in me when I was at school — Chelsea, Sunderland, Aston Villa included — but I am happy I chose Middlesbrough."

"My ambitions? For the moment, to hold my first team place. After that, to be successful."

WHAT have these famous players in common — Brian Greenhoff, Ray Wilkins, Eddie Gray and Terry Hibbitt? That's easy, isn't it? Each has a brother in big time football. Brian and Jimmy Greenhoff were two of the stars of Manchester United's 1977 F.A. Cup winning side; Ray and Graham Wilkins are Chelsea team-mates; Eddie and Frank Gray of Leeds have both played for Scotland, while Terry and brother Ken Hibbitt, although never playing together with a League club, have both made their mark in the top class as midfield "professors".

The Greenhoffs were not the first brothers to appear in a Cup Final team. Way back in 1937 the brothers Frank and Hugh O'Donnell were front-line partners in Preston's losing side.

In 1950 Denis and Leslie Compton, famous cricketers, were in Arsenal's winning team against Liverpool.

Two years later the Barnsley-born brothers Robledo, George and Eddie, won F.A. Cup medals with Newcastle. George scored the only goal against Arsenal.

Then in 1967 Allan and Ron Harris, both former England schoolboy caps, were in Chelsea's losing line-up at Wembley against Spurs.

Brothers have also appeared together in international football. Back in the Fifties Northern Ireland's half-back line included Danny Blanchflower (Spurs) and brother Jackie (Manchester United). They appeared together 12 times but their

brothers-in-arms association came to a sad end in February, 1958 when Jackie was seriously injured in the Munich air disaster and never played again.

Two other international brothers flash to mind — Bobby and Jack Charlton. They first joined up as England partners in 1965 and the following year were two of England's heroes in the World Cup triumph.

They never appeared together in any club side but had many

thrilling man-to-man tussles as direct opponents, for Bobby spent all his finest years with Manchester United and Jack with Leeds United.

Incidentally, they were the first brothers to appear in the same England side since the Walters, A. M. and P. M. (Old Carthusians) before the turn of the century.

Twenty years ago Wales were represented by TWO pairs of brothers in several internationals — Ivor and Len Allchurch and

John and Mel Charles. The Allchurch brothers also played hundreds of games together with Swansea.

The Charles brothers were an amazing couple. Big John, of Leeds United and Juventus fame, was a giant at either centre-half or centre-forward, while younger brother Mel, star of Swansea and Arsenal, earned caps in four different positions — including numbers five and nine, often acting as brother John's "deputy" in one or other berth.

Now there's another of this wonderful Swansea family making his mark in the big time, Jeremy, son of Mel Charles. Like his father and uncle John, Jeremy is a powerful six-footer with all the Charles family football skills. Another Welsh international for the family...?

Many players have been inspired by their fathers, the Wilkins boys of Chelsea for example. Their father, George,

Norwich City manager John Bond (left) and son Kevin... a fine full-back, just like dad once was.



Fathers, sons and **FAMOUS**



was an inside-forward with Brentford, Nottingham Forest and Bradford and captained the Park Avenue side.

Now there are four sons following in father's footsteps — Ray (Butch) and Graham, now stars with Chelsea, and younger brothers Stephen and Dean hope to carry on the family tradition.

Gerry Francis, who became one of England's youngest captains, owes much to the help of his father. Roy Francis was a fine inside-forward and leading goalscorer with Brentford.

But surely the most remarkable football family were the Milburns of Ashington. Four brothers, whose father and grandfather both played in goal for local teams, achieved fame — Jack, George and Jim played for Leeds United and Stan with Leicester City. All were full-backs.

Their sister became Mrs. Charlton and thus were born those two great England World Cup stars Jack and Bobby.

Then, of course, there was cousin Jack (Wor Jackie) Milburn, whose goalscoring feats for Newcastle United and England are still vivid memories.



There is no end to stories of football families. Years ago a player named Worthington wore the colours of Halifax and Manchester United. In later years his three sons have carried on the family tradition.

Two of them, David and Bob, began with Halifax, moved around the League quite a bit and then joined forces again with Southend United.

Meanwhile their younger brother Frank was making his name with Huddersfield and Leicester City and is now with Bolton Wanderers after gaining England caps.

We mustn't forget the Clarke family from Willenhall in Staffordshire who can boast of five footballing brothers all of whom are figuring in the professional game.

The eldest, Frank has been around quite a time and scored over 150 goals in League football.

Then comes Allan, Leeds United's England star with over 200 goals to his credit; Derek, yet another goalgetter, with Oxford and Orient; Kevin who began like Allan and Derek with Walsall, and the "baby", Wayne, who became an apprentice at Walsall.

You've all heard of Liam Brady,

recording. Ron, the elder, began with Queens Park Rangers and after moving to Sheffield Wednesday won 33 England caps.

Meanwhile, brother Peter had joined Queens Park Rangers and began to tot up a run of nearly 150 League games. Then in 1968 the brother goalkeepers took part in a remarkable swap — Peter was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday and Ron returned to Rangers. Ron ended his career in 1970 but Peter is still going strong with Barnsley.

Let's return again to football fathers and sons. The story of the McMenemys reads like fiction — but it's fact.

Jimmy McMenemy (Celtic) was one of the greatest inside-forwards in Scotland during the early years of this century and won seven Scottish Cup medals together with a dozen international caps.

His two sons also earned fame as scheming inside-forwards and both won Cup medals — John with Motherwell (1927) and Harry with Newcastle United (1932).

A year later Harry was picked to play for Scotland but had to pull out owing to injury. Who took his place? Brother John — another honour for the magnificent McMenemys.

In more recent times there were the Astons of Manchester United fame. Father John won Championship and Cup medals and England caps at full-back, then became a member of the coaching staff at Old Trafford and helped his winger son — also John — reach the top to win a European Cup medal (1967).

The other Manchester club, City, can also boast of a famous father and son.

Ken Barnes, outstanding wing-half, was in City's losing Cup Final side in 1955 and the winning team the following year. Now Ken has seen his son Peter develop into one of the finest wingers in the game and win England caps.

There are plenty more sons following Dad into the big time — Alan Ball, one of the England World Cup winners, whose father, also Alan, had many years as a player before becoming a manager; Mike Docherty, Sunderland defender, son of Tommy, former Scottish international many times in the 1950's before entering the managerial ranks, and Kevin Bond, son of John, well remembered at West Ham before he took the managership of Bournemouth and then Norwich City, where young Kevin is quickly growing into maturity at full-back, his father's position during a splendid career at West Ham and Torquay.

So we could go on — the Fletcher twins of Luton Town; the three brothers Latchford — Bob, England striker; Dave, Birmingham City goalkeeper, and younger brother Peter who began with West Bromwich Albion and has since made his goalkeeping mark with Celtic.

Football is certainly a family game and will continue to be so.

brothers help to make this story of...

FOOTBALL FAMILIES



Top of page: Jeremy Charles (second left) and his famous uncle John (centre). Father Mel (far right). Above: Jackie and Bobby Charlton relax at London Airport before leaving for the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico. Left: Winifred's winning team ... proud Mrs. Wilkins and her footballing sons ... Dean (left), Steve, Ray and Graham.

particularly if you are an Arsenal fan. Liam is an outstanding member of The Gunners. But did you know that he is one of four footballing brothers?

Frank Brady played for Shamrock Rovers; Pat and Ray will be remembered by supporters of Millwall and Queens Park Rangers. They played for both clubs and at one time in the early 1960's turned out together many times for Millwall. Ray also played six times for Eire — and now the "baby" of the family, Liam, is one of the stars of the Republic of Ireland.

Another interesting story is that of the brothers Jack and Arthur Rowley who were two of the most prolific goalscorers of post-War football. Jack will always be remembered by Manchester United fans as scorer of two brilliant goals when United won the Cup in 1948. He also gained England caps in four front-line berths and hit six goals in his six internationals.

Brother Arthur, although always playing as an inside forward, ended a remarkable career with West Bromwich, Fulham, Leicester and Shrewsbury with an all-time record total of 434 League goals.

The story of the goalkeeping Springett brothers is also worth

THE CLUBS

CALIFORNIA SURF

New club this season, the franchise was bought from the St. Louis Stars. The Surf play at Anaheim and are managed by John Sewell, fondly remembered by fans of Crystal Palace and Charlton Athletic. Colours are green and blue.

CHICAGO STING

Now managed by Malcolm Musgrove, who wore the colours of West Ham with distinction. The Sting, whose emblem is, not surprisingly a bee, play in yellow and black.

COLORADO CARIBOUS

Based in Denver, this is another new club and the man in charge is former Northern Ireland star Dave Clements. Colours are brown and white.

COSMOS

Not New York Cosmos, just plain Cosmos. 1977 Champions and the club that brought Pele back into action. Perhaps the richest club in the world — they're owned by Warner Brothers. Managed by Eddie Firmani (ex-Charlton and Tampa), colours are blue, white and gold. Beckenbauer . . . Tueart . . . Carlos Alberto . . . Chinaglia . . . the Cosmos have some great players.

DALLAS TORNADO

Managed by an American, Al Miller, they play in red and white.

DETROIT EXPRESS

With a 35 per cent black population, it will be interesting to see the response to this new club backed by, among others, Jimmy Hill. Managed by Ken Furphy (ex-Watford, Sheffield United and Cosmos) they play in orange and blue. Trevor Francis is with them this summer.

FORT LAUDERDALE STRIKERS

This small club did well last season and pulled off a shrewd transfer in Gordon Banks. The South Floridians play in yellow, orange and black and are managed by Ron Newman (ex-Portsmouth).

HOUSTON HURRICANE

New club managed by Timo Liekoski who, believe it or not, is an American. Colours are white with red and orange trim.

LOS ANGELES AZTECS

Managed by Terry Fisher, an American, the Aztecs have George Best on their staff. Colours are orange and white.

MEMPHIS ROGUES

New club managed by Eddie McCreadie (ex-Chelsea) who took over from Malcolm Allison five weeks before the start of the season. The Rogues play in rust, red and gold and their mascot is a rogue elephant.

MINNESOTA KICKS

They play in Minneapolis and are managed by one-time Birmingham City boss Freddie Goodwin. Successful club who averaged over 30,000 last season; colours are blue, orange and white.

NEW ENGLAND TEA MEN

New club with a tasty name, their home is Foxboro in Massachusetts. Managed by former Eire star Noel Cantwell, the Tea Men have an agreement with Charlton Athletic and Mike Flanagan is just one Valley star playing for them this season. Colours are red and gold.

OAKLAND STOMPERS

They were the Connecticut Bicentennials, but now the franchise has switched to the West Coast. Managed by the Yugoslav Mirko Stojanovic they play in purple, gold and blue.

PHILADELPHIA FURY

New club, although the city once had an N.A.S.L. club called the Atoms. The Fury are managed by Richard Dinnis (ex-Newcastle United). Johnny Giles and Peter Osgood are their two big signings. Colours: red and yellow.

PORTLAND TIMBERS

Managed by ex-Bristol Rovers boss Don Megson, the Timbers play in green, yellow and white.

ROCHESTER LANCERS

A Yugoslav is their manager — Don Popovic — and the side has an Eastern European look about it. Colours are yellow and blue.

SAN DIEGO SOCKERS

Managed by a German American Hubert Vogelsinger, they were the Las Vegas Quicksilvers last year. Colours — blue and yellow.

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES

Yugoslav Garbo Gavric is the manager and prefers to use players from his homeland. Colours are maroon, black and white.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS

Runners-up last year and managed by Jimmy Gabriel, who had a long career with Everton and Southampton. They averaged just under 25,000 last season and their defence, with Mike England the king-pin, is very strong. Colours are green and blue.

TAMPA BAY ROWDIES

Champions in 1975 and now managed by Gordon Jago (ex-Q.P.R. and Millwall). They play in green, yellow and white and their stars include Rodney Marsh, Derek Smethurst and David Robb.

TORONTO METROS

Managed by Ivan Sangulian. Champions in 1976, they play in red, white and blue.

TULSA ROUGHNECKS

New club managed by Bill Foulkes, whom Manchester United supporters will never forget. They were Team Hawaii last season and play in red and white.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS

Now managed by Tony Waiters (ex-Plymouth) assisted by former Derby winger Alan Hinton. They also have Kevin Hector from Derby and play in red and white.

WASHINGTON DIPLOMATS

The Dips, as they're called, are managed by Gordon Bradley (Ex-Sunderland and Cosmos). Colours are red, white and black.



IN 1969 the North American Soccer League had just four members — Atlanta, St. Louis, Kansas City and Dallas. In 1970 there were two more. By 1974 a further nine had joined, making 15. By 1975 there were 20 teams and now the N.A.S.L. has 24 clubs, an indication of how soccer is growing in the States. Last season the average gate was around 8,500 with the Cosmos attracting attendances of over 70,000 towards the end of the campaign. It is hoped that this season the figure will double. People may knock American soccer, but no one can deny it's catching on and it represents the biggest single threat to the export of British stars. Here, we give you a run-down on the 24 N.A.S.L. clubs and explain how soccer in the States works.

MAIN PICTURE . . . Franz Beckenbauer in the Cosmos's stadium. BELOW . . . George Best in action for the Aztecs against Dave Clements, now manager in Colorado.



Two N.A.S.L. personalities — Washington Diplomats boss Gordon Bradley (above) and Charlton's Mike Flanagan, on Joan Hinton from New England.

AMERICAN SOCCER

HOW THEY PLAY

The North American Soccer League is rather complicated. They have six Divisions divided into two Conferences:

Each club plays 30 matches, thus:

- two against each team in the Division (six games)
- two against all four teams of the matching Division in the opposing Conference (eight games)

- twelve more Conference games divided up this way: home-and-away series against two of the four teams in each of the remaining Divisions and one game each with the other two teams in the two remaining Divisions (twelve games).

- that leaves four games to go — one against two selected teams from the two other Divisions in the opposing Conference.

By the end of the season, each of the 24 clubs will have met 19 opponents, 11 of them twice.

After the Divisional games come the play-offs. The top two sides in each Division — plus two other "wild card" (as the Americans call them — clubs with impressive records) teams play-off on a knock-out basis for the right to play in the Final at the Giants Stadium (home of the Cosmos) in New Jersey on August 27th.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

Toronto
Rochester
Cosmos
Washington

Central Division

Minnesota
Colorado
Tulsa
Dallas

Western Division

Vancouver
Seattle
Portland
Los Angeles

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

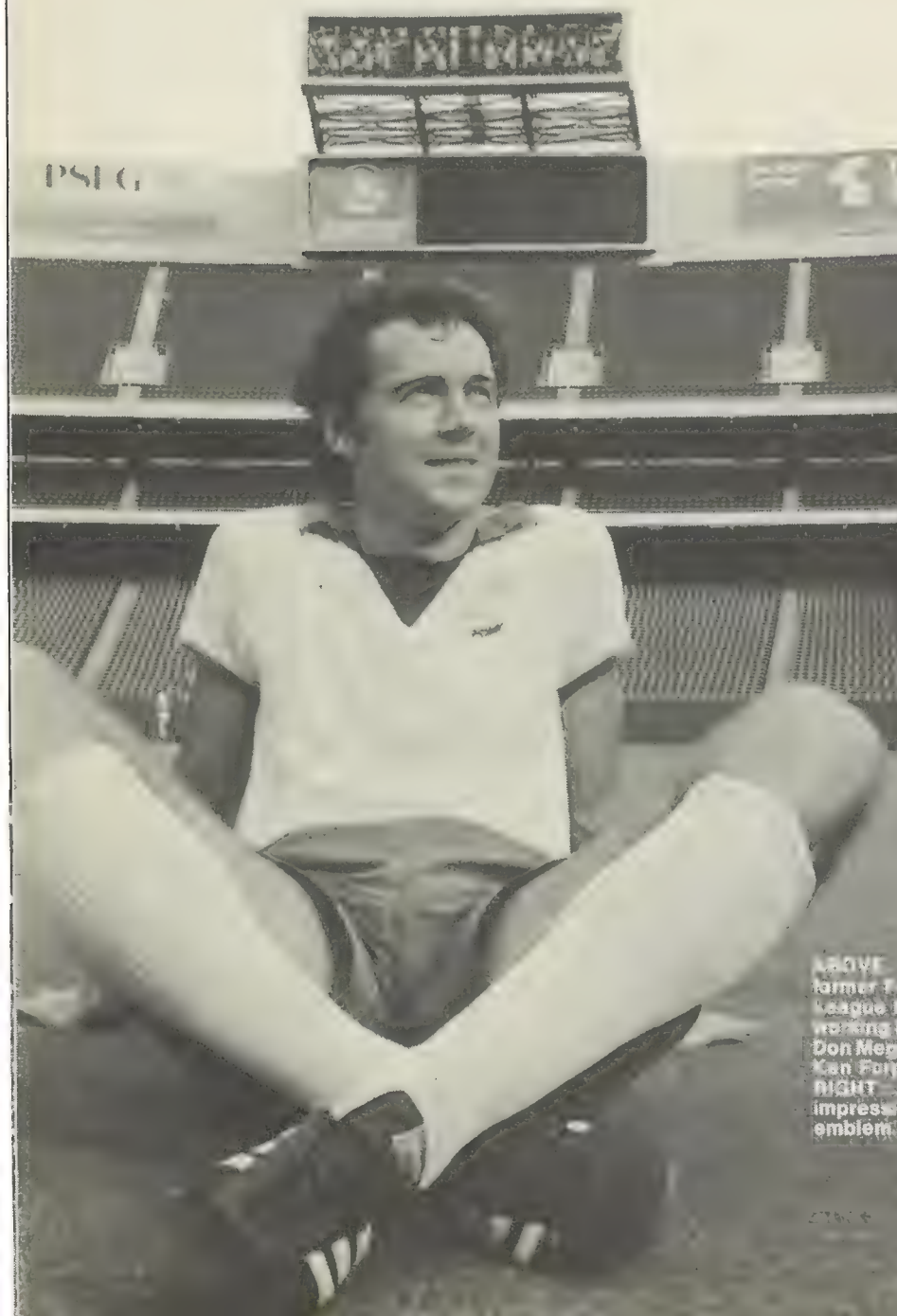
New England
Philadelphia
Tampa Bay
Fort Lauderdale

Central Division

Detroit
Chicago
Memphis
Houston

Western Division

Oakland
San Jose
California
San Diego



ABOVE — Two former Football League bosses now working in the States: Don Messon (left) and Ken Forbey (right).
RIGHT — The impressive Tulsa emblem.





PAUL STURROCK Dundee Utd.
and Scotland Under 21's

Pele may have retired last year, but his name still spells magic in soccer. Recently, the Brazilian ace gave a Press conference where reporters threw a variety of questions at him. Here's a selection of them . . .

Football has been the most important thing in your life; it gave you money, prestige and fame. Which of these three is the most important to you?

They are qualities important to any human being. There are people who have money, yet would be prepared to give it all away for prestige. If you have money, prestige is not important, but then prestige and no money . . . then it's impossible to live.

When will we see a bit of Muhammad Ali in you? When will you fight for the black people?

Ali is a racist. He was forced into such a position and I must respect him for this. I have no reasons to be a racist, though.

Few blacks in Brazil are able to reach stardom. Would you have been even



'Cosmos? I could have earned more with Juventus'

What was the REAL reason for signing for the Cosmos? The dollar temptation or financial difficulties?

There were many reasons. The first was to widen my knowledge of the world, to have more time with my family and give my children better education and schooling. The other was the opportunity to sell Brazilian know-how to the Americans. I think the three years I spent in the United States were equally important to myself and Brazil. My country had never been so promoted or so talked about there. Regarding the financial side, I could have received the same amount or perhaps even more had I accepted an invitation at one time from

WHY PELE WON'T BECOME A MUHAMMAD ALI...

more popular if you'd been white?

When a person is lucky, honest and has self-respect, colour becomes irrelevant. One can be successful, black or white.

You were criticised when it was announced you were going to be a commentator during the World Cup Finals for a Venezuelan T.V. station. Wouldn't this job have been better for a professional journalist?

'People wanted me to play until I died'

I am a journalist. The Journalists' Union in Sao Paulo offered me an honorary union card.

What difficulties are you having, trying to become a normal citizen?

I have been trying to be the same person I've always been, even while I was considered the best player in the world. The only thing I am doing now that was not possible before is to walk in the streets as a normal person. This is the best way to show people I'm Edson Arantes do Nascimento, not Pele.

You were always accused of deserting the Brazil national side . . . Brazil is a sentimental country. If you

Pele talks to the Cosmos crowd on the day he retired. Among the stars listening is Muhammad Ali (right).



play for the national team people think you belong to them, like an object. They thought I should play until I died. There are, however, two sides to the coin. If you don't play well, everyone wants you out. To tell the truth, I was fed up suffering other people's reactions.

Why didn't you play in the 1974 World Cup Finals?

After four World Cup series I didn't have the sufficient motivation to go on. Maybe you don't know, but just before the '70 World Cup some people tried to knock me down by saying I was unfit, etc. I didn't want all that happening again.

Juventus. I also had an invitation, which is still valid, from America of Mexico. So you see, I had other alternatives than the Cosmos.

If President Geisel of Brazil made a public appeal, would you play for Brazil again?

He has made one – and I didn't play again.

Are you a Brazilian Ambassador or footballer?

I think I do a lot for Brazil. It is my obligation. I was surprised to see children in China, Russia and India chanting my name when I visited their countries. I was also conscious that while I played for the Cosmos I was more than a footballer. I was a Brazilian who, because of my popularity, helped to sell the Brazilian image . . . tried to make Brazil better-known. Thus, with the popularity I managed to achieve through football, I ended up being a Brazilian Ambassador without being named as such.

Has Brazilian football progressed or gone backwards since 1970?

Brazil football hasn't changed. What HAS altered is the way people look at it. The main preoccupation now is with defence, which could be seen as a step backwards.

What is the main difference between Brazil then and now?

When I played for Brazil we had players who could change a game by themselves, like Garrincha and Vava. Now, few players are capable of such feats.

TOMMY GEMMELL

Dundee's Laughing Cavalier



I would take a full-back of exceptional quality and character to stand out in a team that boasted such personalities as Jimmy Johnstone, Billy McNeill, Bobby Murdoch and Bertie Auld.

Such a man was Tommy Gemmell, the laughing Cavalier of Scottish soccer when he was left-back in that marvellous Celtic team of the Sixties. Gemmell, with a shot that exploded past baffled goalkeepers with incredible regularity, has taken that up-and-at-'em spirit into management now and his influence is plain to see on Dundee.

The Dens Park side, once proud and feared, had slipped drastically. They had lost their Premier Division status and they toiled to get out of the doldrums.

Davie White, the former Rangers manager who had taken Gemmell from Nottingham Forest to Dundee, was eventually sacked and the Dens Park directors had to look only as far as their own playing staff for a replacement.

The fans urged them to give the job to Gemmell and they must be happy now that they did. Dundee may not conquer all before them on the domestic front within the next two or three years, but Gemmell has certainly got them going in the right direction.

"I didn't realise all that this job entailed," said Gemmell. "For a start my 'phone bill has shot up!

"There are a lot of nights when I get very little sleep, but I accept that as part of a very tough job. The pressure is always there.

"I try to relax by going fishing or shooting. That takes my mind of football for a short while anyway.

"One of the most rewarding features is being able to put a side on the pitch that plays entertaining soccer and attracts the fans."

Gemmell's attitude to football management has to be admired. He says simply: "People get the sack if they are not successful. I want to be successful."

The man who brought a new dimension to the left-back position hasn't been slow in reorganising his Dens Park side. He threatened changes if the team didn't start improving. He gave players a chance to prove themselves, but when they didn't deliver the goods Gemmell cut through the team with rapier-like speed.

He brought in former Aberdeen players Jocky Scott, Jim Shirra, Billy Williamson and Bobby Glennie. He swapped striker Bobby Hutchinson for Hibs' international left-back Erich Schaedler and he paid out a modest £15,000 for Rangers' Ian MacDougall.

"If a player whom I think can do a job for this club becomes available at a realistic price then I am interested," says Gemmell.

Soccer needs people such as Tommy Gemmell. He was good for the game as a player. He will almost certainly be just as good as a manager... as he should prove next season by winning promotion back to the Premier Division.

'My six

GOALS, goals, goals... teams can't score enough... fans can't see enough of them.

Goals are what the game is all about, yet in recent times they have become scarcer and scarcer especially in the First Division where defences are more skilful and better organised.

The last team to win the Championship and top the ton was Tottenham when they achieved the Double in 1960-61.

That season, Super Spurs totalled 115 League goals.

Two other clubs also scored over 100 in 1960-61... third-placed Wolves with 103 and fourth-placed Burnley who hit 104.

In the Second Division, Champions Ipswich scored 100 exactly. In the Third Division, leaders Bury 108 and in the Fourth, Peterborough and Crystal Palace finished first and second respectively.

my soccer scene

GORDON HILL

tively having notched 134 and 110.

Nowadays the First Division Champions average around the 67 mark. Not too long ago, clubs were relegated having scored that number of goals, or more.

Every season, though, we get our crop of golden goals and last term was no exception.

I saw quite a few glorious efforts either while I was playing or on television.

Unfortunately, I haven't the space to mention them all, so I've selected what I consider my six of the best for 1977-78, but in no particular order.

GOAL ONE... was scored by John Robertson for Nottingham Forest against Manchester City in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round at the City Ground.

In the third minute of the match, John collected a pass from the left, trapped it, looked up and curled a tremendous shot inside the far post, well out of Joe Corrigan's reach. Forest went on to win 2-1.

GOAL TWO... also featured Forest in the F.A. Cup... in the Fifth Round at Q.P.R. There was three minutes of the match remaining with Rangers winning 1-0, thanks to a Martyn Busby goal in the first-half.

Then with the seconds ticking away, Archie Gemmill raced downfield with the ball. Defenders scrambled back to cover, but too late to prevent Archie lofting a gem of a pass to Martin O'Neill who headed the ball like a bullet

past keeper Phil Parkes.

The Irish international, scored again in a second replay when Forest finally won through, 3-1.

GOAL THREE... knocked Forest out of the F.A. Cup in the Sixth Round at The Hawthorns. Cup hero for West Brom was Cyrille Regis.

Just after half-time and with Albion winning 1-0, the Black Bomber put the issue beyond Forest's reach.

Paddy Mulligan hit a perfect pass and caught Forest's defence square. Regis let the ball bounce a couple of times on the edge of the box then struck it on the half volley, giving Peter Shilton no chance.

GOAL FOUR... won BBC's Match of the Day, Goal-of-the-Month for March Award. Alan Sunderland was the scorer, for Arsenal against Manchester City in the League at Highbury.

In the 36th minute, there was a three or four man movement down the right. The ball was finally slipped through by Alan Hudson to Sunderland, who had his back to goal.

Before a City defender could tackle, the ex-Wolves player turned and hammered the ball past Joe Corrigan.

It wasn't so much the shot that impressed everybody, but how well the goal was worked. It was a real team effort. Incidentally, Arsenal went on to win 3-0.

GOAL FIVE... came against Manchester United and was scored by Chelsea's Ray Wilkins during a League match at Stamford Bridge.

A cross came over from the left, into the area. The ball was only half-cleared... straight to Ray who was standing just outside the area. He struck the ball perfectly on the half volley into the net.

United drew 2-2, thanks to my penalty in the last minute.

Finally, **GOAL SIX**... scored by



of the best'

Rainer Bonhof for Borussia Monchengladbach in the European Cup Semi-Final first-leg tie against Liverpool in Dusseldorf.

The West Germans were awarded a rather dubious free-kick about 25 yards out.

The Liverpool defensive wall looked secure enough, so did Ray Clemence in goal.

But Bonhof hit the ball so hard it beat the red wall and went in off Ray's shoulder.

Some critics blamed him for the goal. I didn't. The wall didn't break and Clem had the ball covered all the way, but it was hit so powerfully nothing could stop it. I've never seen such a ferocious free-kick.

Bonhof had, in fact, scored in similar style a few weeks earlier against Ray Clem, for West Germany against England in Munich.

Again, the free-kick caused

controversy. Had an England defender fouled or not? Was the kick taken before the referee had signalled?

Anyhow, before the England wall was properly formed, Bonhof shot straight into the net past an unsighted Clem for West Germany's fortunate winner.

Great goals as they are, though, none I've just mentioned beat the best I have ever seen.

That was scored by Pele for Brazil in the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico against Czechoslovakia.

During the second-half, Pele caught a long, high pass from Gerson in his stride, trapped the ball on his chest and volleyed it into the net. The Czech keeper, Viktor, never even saw the ball.

Brazil won the match 4-1 and went on to capture the World Cup for the third time.

I didn't see that golden

goal 'live', of course, but on a film of the 1970 World Cup, shown to the Manchester United squad by manager Dave Sexton last season, before my move to Derby.

I'd love to have a copy of that film so I could run and re-run that little piece of superb action.

Like all soccer fans, goals always give me a thrill. The only thing that beats seeing a great goal, is scoring one.

My personal best to date was for Manchester United against Peterborough in the Fourth Round of the 1975-76 F.A. Cup at Old Trafford.

The ball came out to me, ten yards from their penalty-area, I caught it on the volley and it

smashed into the net. United won that tie 3-1.

The most vital goals I've scored came the same season against my new club Derby County in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals.

One was from a free-kick, the other I bent round the keeper. Those two goals sent United on to Wembley... where, unfortunately, we lost to Southampton.

Well, unfortunately, I've run out of space. I just hope I've 'scored' with you SHOOT readers.

Have a happy holiday. Enjoy yourselves.

John H. D.



Above: Bonhof's free-kick thunders on its way into the Liverpool net during last season's European Cup Semi-Final first-leg v. Borussia Monchengladbach. Below: John Robertson (arm raised) watches as his shot flashes past Manchester City's 'keeper Joe Corrigan.



ASA WON'T GO BACK TO SCOTLAND NOW

...unless it's Hampden Park!

TO see Asa Hartford's never-say-die performances for Manchester City and Scotland it's almost impossible to believe he has a hole in his heart. Just as hard to believe he once turned his back on the game that has given him so much.

Very hard — but true. Hartford, 27, was an apprentice with West Brom. Had left home as a teenager to make his name in England.

Yet Asa became so homesick he packed his bags one Saturday night and went home to Scotland. His father was furious.

Apparently, Asa was unhappy with his digs — his landlady wouldn't let him watch her T.V. and he became very lonely wasting away the hours.

This cut no ice with Mr. Hartford, who gave his son a stern lecture and put him on the next train back to the Midlands.

Monday morning — and Asa turned up for training as usual. No one even knew what had gone on. Hartford knuckled down and made a "go" of it.

Hartford broke through into the first team ten years ago last February, just as West Brom were heading for the 1968 F.A. Cup Final.

In fact, Hartford played in a few League games just before their Wembley appearance and many people thought he would be in West Brom's Cup Final side.

Manager Alan Ashman went for experience and nobody argued as Albion won thanks to a somewhat fortunate, but nevertheless telling, Jeff Astle

goal.

The next season Asa was virtually a regular and his dynamic midfield play was praised by everyone. Then, at the age of 21, Asa — first name Richard — saw his career almost ruined.

Don Revie was prepared to pay around £250,000 — a lot of money in those days — for Hartford to link up with Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles at Leeds.

Leeds, at that time, were very much "the" club in England and the prospect of joining them naturally thrilled young Asa.

Terms were agreed and all that remained was the customary medical. There would be no problems . . . so Leeds

thought.

The Elland Road club could not get a clearance from a specialist.

Don Revie broke the news to Asa that the transfer was off. Apparently, X-rays showed Asa had a small hole in his heart and Leeds couldn't risk such a huge investment under those circumstances.

Hartford thought his career was over. He was mixed-up and went into "hiding" for a few days to get away from the Press and well-meaning fans.

West Brom sent Hartford to a specialist in the Midlands and while he confirmed Asa DID have a tiny hole in his heart, it should not restrict him in any way. The following Saturday Asa was back in the

Albion side!

He showed no ill effects from his traumatic experience, but even, his drive couldn't stop West Brom being relegated.

Asa became unsettled. He'd always given 100 per cent for West Brom yet wanted to further his career.

In August, 1974, Manchester City did what Leeds didn't and signed Hartford for £225,000. Since then, Asa hasn't looked back.

He's one of Britain's best midfielders, a Scottish international and with one of the League's top clubs.

No chance of him going back to Scotland now . . . unless it's Hampden Park, of course!



Berwick back on the map



Manager Dave Smith

VISITING fans to Berwick almost needed Sherlock Holmes qualities to track down Shielfield Park in the past...

People in the town preferred to do other things on a Saturday afternoon and there was a definite air of indifference in their attitude to the local side.

They were living in the past. "Remember January 28th, 1967?" they would ask. "What about that result against the mighty Rangers? We showed them."

The reference is to their astonishing, incredible, remarkable 1-0 Scottish Cup victory over the then holders at Shielfield Park. It is the biggest shock in the history of the tournament.

But things are beginning to stir again in Berwick now. People are talking about football again... and they are talking about TODAY'S team and TODAY'S results. No longer are they yesterday's people. The cloak of lethargy has been thrown off and the man who must take the bulk of the credit is a player who will also always remember that sensational result 11 years ago.

That man is Dave Smith, who played for Rangers that day while Jock Wallace, now the Ibrox manager, of course, kept goal for Berwick. Smith is now player-boss

with the Shielfield club.

"It can be difficult operating on a shoestring," says the elegant Smith. "However, it teaches you the value of money."

"The club, though, has ambitions. I think we have a fair side here. When we played Rangers in the Cup this year we were beaten 4-2, but we showed what our capabilities were."

"Obviously a lot of fans were hoping that history would repeat itself. That didn't happen, but I hope we proved we were a good footballing side. That's the main thing so far as I am concerned. Success will follow naturally."

Smith, booked only once in a long and distinguished career, knows all about the ups-and-downs on soccer's unpredictable trail. He started his senior career with Aberdeen where his silken touches earned him the tag of "the second Jim Baxter."

Rangers took notice and it was no surprise when they paid out £50,000 for him 12 years ago.

He played in two European Cup-Winners' Cup Finals with the Ibrox club, winning one against Moscow in 1972 and losing one against Bayern Munich in 1967. In the same year as the Moscow Dynamo victory he was awarded the Scottish Player of the Year title.

"That was great," says Smith. "It capped a superb season. I was vice-captain of the side and everything seemed to be going well."

In fact, Smith was skipper of the side in John Greig's absence during the European Semi-Final against Bayern Munich at Ibrox which Rangers won 2-0.

However, two years later, Smith was on the move. He went to Arbroath, couldn't settle, had a stint abroad and then decided to return. Berwick snapped him up and they have certainly picked a winner.

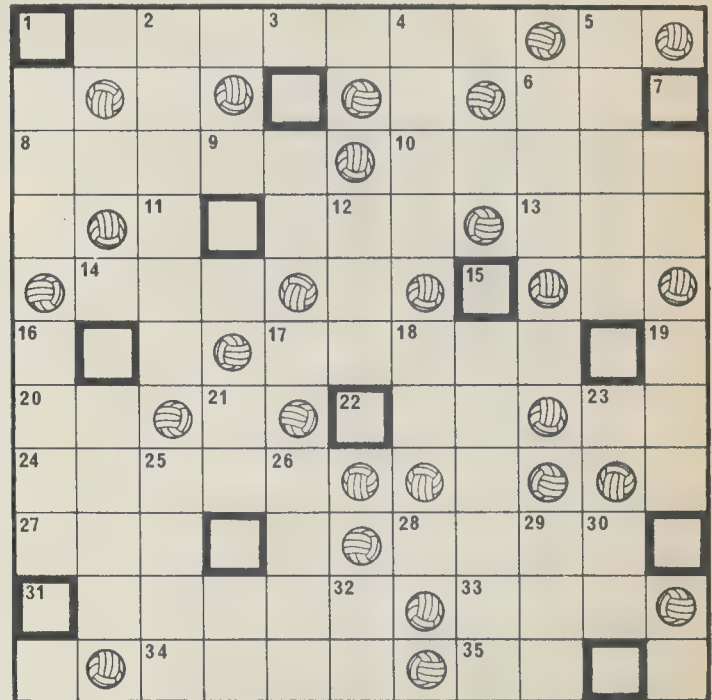
Smith has put them back on the map and their support is growing all the time.

Ian Smith scores against Rangers in the Cup last term. Berwick lost 4-2.



Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Nottingham Forest defender. Answers on page 58.



ACROSS:-

- (1) ----- Park, home of Oldham Athletic.
- (6) --s-ville Stadium, Bristol Rovers.
- (8) Lift up --- one's spirits perhaps!
- (10) Frank ----- former Leicester City player.
- (11) All the goals added together, for instance.
- (13) D-ns --rk (Dundee). The omissions reversed.
- (14) Number of clubs in the Scottish Premier Division.
- (16) -t-mfor- Bridge (Chelsea).
- (17) Mike -----, Newcastle United goalkeeper.
- (20) Sammy -cllro- of Manchester United.
- (22) Watford are nicknamed The Hor---s.
- (23) Peter Ea-t-e of Queens Park Rangers.
- (24) Scottish First Division club from Recreation Ground.
- (27) Loud sounds as from a big crowd.
- (28) Greater or most significant.
- (31) Devices or stratagems.
- (33) Gerry ---, Bristol City midfielder player.
- (34) After much exertion a player would need this.
- (35) Take four letters from Chelsea to give elongated fish.

DOWN:-

- (1) John ---- Newcastle defender.
- (2) Would come after Ayr or Dundee, for instance.
- (3) Eating plan for an overweight player.
- (4) Turn over and over --- as the ball on the ground.
- (5) Newcastle United nickname... The -----.
- (6) Hib--ni-n from Easter Road.
- (7) Take three letters from Everton for a golf peg.
- (9) Stuart Pear--- of Man. Utd.
- (12) ---- Gowling, Bolton striker.
- (14) Peter -----, Spurs striker.
- (15) Craven -----, ground of Fulham.
- (16) Gives stinging pain.
- (18) Paddy Roc-- of Manchester United.
- (19) Pl-m--th A-gyle.
- (21) Strength; as of a hard shot, perhaps.
- (25) B--an T--bot (Ipswich). Animals home from the omissions reversed.
- (26) -t-r-- Park (Raith Rovers). Requests made from the missing letters.
- (29) --- Corrigan, Manchester City.
- (30) Sheffield Wednesday are nicknamed The ---s.
- (32) Paris -- Germain, French club.

Determined . . .
aggressive . . . stylish . . .
brilliant . . . that's
Nottingham Forest
full-back Viv Anderson.



Wolves centre-half Bob Hazell (above) made a big impact in the First Division last season. Luton winger Ricky Hill (below) . . . tormentor of rival defenders.



BLACK



Top left: Garry Thompson made his League debut for Coventry last March. Above: Many clubs would like to have the power and skills of Millwall's Trevor Lee.

Left: West Brom's striking sensation, Cyril Regis. Above: Stoke City's Garth Crooks has emerged as one of the most exciting players in the game.

POWER

The Midlands XI which played in the testimonial match for that fine referee Jack Taylor of Wolverhampton. Back row: Bryan Robson (West Brom), Dennis Mortimer (Aston Villa), Jimmy Montgomery (Birmingham City). Tony Want (the sub who left Birmingham to play in the United

States), John Wile (West Brom), John McAlle (Wolves) and Derek Statham (West Brom). Front row: Terry Hibbitt (Birmingham City), John Gidman (Aston Villa), Brian Little (Aston Villa), John Richards (Wolves) and Barry Powell (Coventry City).



THE high regard the Swindon Town players have for John Trollope can be gauged by the story that all the Town staff voted for John as the "YOUNG Player of the Year" in last season's P.F.A. awards!

But veteran John still has his eye on one soccer record. Having already broken the first team appearance total previously held by Jimmy Dickinson who played 832 times for Portsmouth, John is now chasing Dickinson's Football League appearance record of 764 games with one club.

However, as John told SHOOT, that record may be now out of his reach. "Officially I stopped playing in the first team after the match in which I broke the first of Jimmy's two records.

"I had been offered the job as Youth team-manager at Swindon and although I felt I could carry on playing for another two seasons, this opportunity was too good to turn down.

"Then the first team was hit by injuries and after just three League games I was back in the side. I still have 27 games to beat the record. But I will be registered as a player in the coming season and although I will be turning out in the reserves with the youngsters, I will be available for the League side if they are hit by

injuries again."

It was back in August, 1960 that John Trollope was introduced into the Swindon senior side and he played 368 consecutive League and Cup games for the club before he broke an arm at Hartlepool on the second Saturday of the 1968-69 season.

"When I made my League debut Bert Head was manager," said John. "There were a great set of youngsters at the County Ground at that time. Playing in the side with me was Ernie Hunt, Bobby Woodruffe and Mike Summerbee. And a couple of seasons later Don Rogers arrived on the scene.

"Of all the players I have seen at Swindon, Don was the finest. He was as good as any player in the country. If anything, Don hung on too long at Swindon before moving into First Division football."

When John made his debut for Swindon, he and 17-year-old Terry Wollen set another record at that time. They became the youngest ever full-back partnership in League football.

Of the hundreds of games John has played he has one great day to remember. "No doubt at all, it was when Town beat mighty Arsenal 3-1 after extra-time in the League Cup Final of the 1968-69 season."

John can also look back on a

JOHN TROLLOPE— "RETIRED" but still going strong for Swindon



career that has seen him very lucky with injuries.

"The worst injury was that broken arm and then I only missed three games before being back in action for the club.

"I have always been very happy at Swindon and not once have I thought of leaving the club. Perhaps, if I had been dropped and had been out of the first team for maybe half a season I may then have thought about a move to another club.

"Luckily it never happened and I am very pleased to know I have a job at the County Ground which will keep me with the club when I eventually hang up my boots for the last time."

In his long and loyal career John has served under six managers—even if you count the fact Danny Williams is now back for his second spell as boss since John started playing.

The others were Bert Head, Fred Ford, Dave Mackay, Les Allen and Bobby Smith who joined us this close season.

Let us hope that this great clubman will be back in the League side during the coming season to set up that new Football League appearance record for a single club.

WEST BROM'S TONY GODDEN WANTS TO BE ENGLAND'S NUMBER ONE



TONY Godden, West Bromwich Albion's goalkeeper, welcomed SHOOT's reporter with a firm, vice grip handshake and said: "I want to play for England, that's where I set my sights. Not only to play, but to be England's number one and to stay there."

"There's also the target of keeping a clean sheet for Albion — former Hawthorns hero John Osborne holds the record of 22 in a season, so that's something else for me to chase."

Tony came into the side on a permanent basis at the beginning of last season after some stirring summer displays.

"The Albion played in two competitions — one in Scotland and one in Spain," said the former Gillingham and Ashford Town part-timer.

"We won 2-0 in the Final in Scotland and I played very well. Then I was chosen against Dynamo Toli in Spain and I had another very good game. I was playing so well that it made my place secure for the opening game of the season against Chelsea."

"I toppled the great John Osborne, yet ironically soccer's Bionic Veteran was the key to my success."

"He was the man who really gave me confidence and helped to iron out my faults. Nothing was too much trouble for Ossie."

Tony — 22 — sports a 6'-1" athletic frame and it was pure fate that made him take up goalkeeping.

"I was chucked in one day at school when I was around 13," he says. "The regular keeper didn't

turn up, so in I went. Three weeks later I was playing for Medway Boys, which was the local boys' team."

"Two months after I was keeping goal for Kent schoolboys."

"I joined Gillingham when I left school at 16 and a year later I went to Ashford. I was there until I arrived at The Hawthorns in August, 1975."

"My debut came during the 1976-77 season against Spurs at White Hart Lane on March 12th. It was a big week for me because my wife had our first baby on the Monday — a little girl, Charlotte Anne — and on the Saturday I found myself playing for the first team. We won 2-0 and I pulled off the save of the match when we were winning one nil 20 minutes from time."

"I was pleased with it because it kept us in the game. We managed to poach one about five minutes later, which killed Tottenham off completely."

"Now, of course, they are back in the First Division and I'm looking forward to playing against them again next term."

Did Tony find it hard switching from Southern League to First Division football? "Yes, but the other lads and ex-Albion boss Ronnie Allen helped me a lot."

Motivation

"The biggest problem I found was concentration. You're out of the game for long periods, then suddenly you're called upon to do something fantastic."

"I think motivation from your team mates is a must. If I pull off a fine save the lads are applauding and geeing me up. If I do something wrong, then they give me a telling off and it's forgotten. But you do get more time to motivate other players and this is a big part of a goalkeeper's make up."

"I rate Peter Shilton as the best keeper in England. Clemence is great, but Shilton is super."

"And I think The Bomber — Tony Brown — has one of the most lethal shots I've ever come up against. Anything on the volley just whistles like a rocket."

"The most brilliant save I've ever made was in the dying seconds of our match at Derby last term. Charlie George hit a free-kick from just outside the box that ripped straight through our defensive wall."

"I managed to stop myself from going the wrong way and to finger tip the ball over the top. It was one of those saves that you don't know how you get there, but you do."

WHEN Ian Greaves first signed Alan Gowling for Huddersfield from Manchester United in June, 1972, for £60,000, he described him as: "The best buy I have ever made."

Now Gowling and Greaves are back together again, at Burnden Park, the home of promotion-winning Bolton Wanderers.

And Wanderers boss Greaves is just as happy with his new signing. "Considering the soaring price of footballers over the past six years, at £120,000, Alan must be as great a bargain as before," he argues.

Gowling has won many admirers in his distinguished

waste such an obvious talent.

While at Newcastle, Gowling struck up a much publicised partnership with Malcolm Macdonald and outscored "Supermac" on numerous occasions. Even after Macdonald's departure to Arsenal, he continued to score frequently. Last season started badly for him and he found the net only four times up to the time of his transfer in March.

Greaves cannot explain what went wrong for Alan. Indeed he says it is not his job to comment on such matters. "My only concern is Bolton Wanderers and Alan Gowling as a Bolton player," he stresses.

GOWLING AND GREAVES— a great team

career with Manchester United, Huddersfield and Newcastle — but possibly none greater than Greaves.

"As far as I am concerned Alan is a top class First Division player and he can be invaluable to Bolton now we're back in Division One for the first time since 1964.

"For two consecutive seasons we missed out on promotion right at the end. Last term we were determined not to miss the boat for the third time and Alan's goalscoring ability strengthened what I consider to be a very good team.

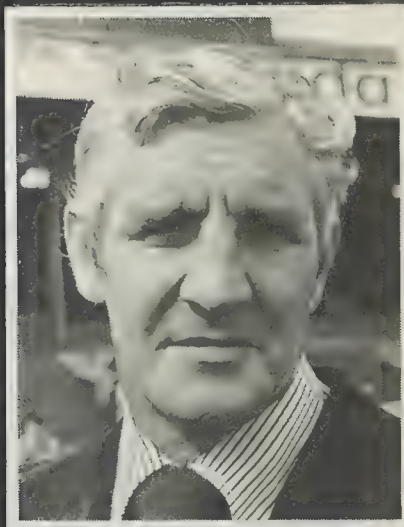
"He was made available for transfer at just the right time for us. The transfer deadline was rapidly approaching and Alan was the type of player we were looking for and at the right price.

"When I signed him I told him that I couldn't guarantee him a first team place. He accepted this readily but did so well that he quickly won that first team place."

In a career spanning ten years, Gowling has scored more than 100 League goals in just over 300 games. But while at Huddersfield he was not always content to play in the centre-forward position.

Greaves explains: "When I signed him for Huddersfield he was captain of the England Under-23 team and playing in midfield. I immediately told him that I would be using him as a goalscorer and some people took this to mean I refused to let him play in midfield. That was untrue.

"If you sign an established goalscorer you don't play him in goal, but I was never as strict with Alan as some people have presumed. I have played him in midfield before and will do so again if the need arises, but his greatest asset has proved to be his goals and I would be wrong to



The success of the Greaves-Gowling team is based on mutual respect. When Gowling left Huddersfield to join Newcastle after the Yorkshire club had slipped dramatically from the First to the Fourth Division he was asked why he had stayed with a sinking club.

His reply was frank and to the point: "I admired Ian Greaves and felt I owed him my loyalty."

Greaves believes that Gowling's attitude stems from the fact that they are two of a kind.

"We both like straight talk and we both like to get on with the job in hand with the minimum of fuss," he says.

At Huddersfield, their association knew only the disappointment of relegation. At Bolton, it was celebration as Wanderers beat their promotion jitters and returned to the First Division.

Manager Ian Greaves (left) reckons Alan Gowling was a bargain buy at £120,000.





NOTTINGHAM Forest, the team who heard they had won promotion to Division One in 1976-77 while on holiday, can a year later call themselves worthy winners of the League Championship.

Not for them a nail-biting finish to the season, but clear, outright leaders since Tuesday, October 4th, 1977, when a four-goal salvo by Peter Withe sunk Ipswich Town at the City Ground.

They had led the First Division when the first League tables were published on September 3rd, but they slipped from the top for a month.

Although, one record the League Champions and League Cup winners could not break was Leeds United's First Division haul of 67 points, a total they achieved in 1968-69.

Forest have topped that, when they achieved 70 in 1950-51, but that was in the old Third Division (South) and they also had played 46 matches.

When Leeds created their new record of 67 points, they gained more points than they scored League goals — 67 points and only 66 goals!

Before Leeds United clinched their title win with a 0-0 draw against Liverpool at Anfield in April, 1969, the previous points record in the First Division had been held by North London rivals, Arsenal and Tottenham.

The great Arsenal side of the 1930's beat the previous points record total of 60 for First Division Champions by six points in the 1930-31 season — the first of the Highbury club's hat-trick of League titles.

It was a record that was to stand for 30 years.

In 1960-61, Tottenham equalled the record when they also became the first team this century to complete the Double of League Championship and F.A. Cup.

Super Spurs ended that term with 66, eight points ahead of runners-up Sheffield Wednesday, who had reached the magical 60 when they had won the title in 1929-30.

In 1961-62, the Championship was won by a team who totalled ten points less than Spurs. The club was Ipswich, who had a manager by the name of Alf Ramsey!

It was an exciting climax to two seasons of success for the Ipswich side. A year previously they

LEEDS' RECORD UNBEATEN



Top of page: John Robertson thumps a penalty past West Ham 'keeper, Mervyn Day, and Forest are on their way to two more Championship-winning points. Above: Leeds (white strip) clinched the title in 1969 with a 0-0 draw against Liverpool at Anfield.

had won the Second Division title.

Since the introduction of the 22 club First Division after World War One in 1919-20, two clubs in the inter-War period had won the title with the lowest ever points total of 52. Sheffield Wednesday in 1928-29 and Arsenal in 1937-38.

In 1954-55, Chelsea fans did not worry about their low points haul as the club won the First Division title for the first time.

Not only were Chelsea the club to win the title with the lowest points total since World War Two, again 52, but they still had four points to spare over runners-up Wolves.

Only four times since the League Championship began in 1888-89 has the title been decided on goal-average.

The first close finish was in 1923-24 when Huddersfield Town finished ahead of Cardiff City, both clubs on 57 points. The other three occasions have been since 1949.

In the 1949-50 season, Portsmouth held off the challenge of Wolves with the Midland club having the same total of 53 points.

Arsenal pipped Preston North End in 1952-53 on 54 points.

In 1964-65, Manchester United and Leeds United ended with the same high total of 61 points. But the Old Trafford club finally hoisted the Championship flag, thanks to a superior goal average.

Brian Clough and his merry men had no such encounters of this close kind in 1977-78!

League Champions since 1946-47

Season	Champions	Points	Runners-up	Points	Season	Champions	Points	Runners-up	Points
1946-47	Liverpool	57	Manchester U.	56	1962-63	Everton	61	Tottenham H.	55
1947-48	Arsenal	59	Manchester U.	52	1963-64	Liverpool	57	Manchester U.	53
1948-49	Portsmouth	58	Manchester U.	53	1964-65	*Manchester U.	61	Leeds U.	61
1949-50	*Portsmouth	53	Wolverhampton W.	53	1965-66	Liverpool	61	Leeds U.	55
1950-51	Tottenham H.	60	Manchester U.	56	1966-67	Manchester U.	60	Nottingham F.	56
1951-52	Manchester U.	57	Tottenham H.	53	1967-68	Manchester C.	58	Manchester U.	56
1952-53	*Arsenal	54	Preston N.E.	54	1968-69	Leeds U.	67	Liverpool	61
1953-54	Wolverhampton W.	57	W.B.A.	53	1969-70	Everton	66	Leeds U.	57
1954-55	Chelsea	52	Wolverhampton W.	48	1970-71	Arsenal	65	Leeds U.	64
1955-56	Manchester U.	60	Blackpool	49	1971-72	Derby Co.	58	Leeds U.	57
1956-57	Manchester U.	64	Tottenham H.	56	1972-73	Liverpool	60	Arsenal	57
1957-58	Wolverhampton W.	64	Preston N.E.	59	1973-74	Leeds U.	62	Liverpool	57
1958-59	Wolverhampton W.	61	Manchester U.	55	1974-75	Derby Co.	53	Liverpool	51
1959-60	Burnley	55	Wolverhampton W.	54	1975-76	Liverpool	60	Q.P.R.	59
1960-61	Tottenham H.	66	Sheffield W.	58	1976-77	Liverpool	57	Manchester C.	56
1961-62	Ipswich T.	56	Burnley	53	1977-78	Nottingham F.	64	Liverpool	57

Chelsea's OLD-FASHIONED winger

THE Chelsea talent factory—which has produced some outstanding footballers over the years—unearthed another super young prospect last season.

Clive Walker's the name, a 20 year-old winger in the old fashioned mould.

Chelsea boss Ken Shellito turned to Walker almost in desperation just before Christmas because he wanted someone to score a few goals.

And Walker responded in magnificent fashion—hammering six goals in his first seven matches.

Two of those came against mighty Liverpool as Chelsea beat them 4-2 to send the then League Champions and European Cup holders out of the F.A. Cup.

They were widely shown on television the next day to give Walker some instant stardom.

"Scoring those goals against a team like Liverpool, then sitting at home and watching it all over again on TV on the Sunday gave me the greatest weekend of my life," he says.

"I realise I have put myself under a bit of pressure by scoring a few so soon after getting promoted to the first team.

"The fans are probably going to expect me to do it all the time. But I think I can cope with the problem.

Bill Garner, one of Walker's experienced team mates, is convinced the kid from Oxford can go on to make a big impression in the game.

Garner says: "He is a consistent scorer, a natural scorer and can always be relied on to get goals.

"And the fact he does it from the wing proves he's a class player.

"People say he models himself on George Best—but he's a one-off. There's no other player like him.

"Clive's quick—very quick. He's brave, confident and loves to take people on. I'd put him in the category of Peter Barnes."

The comparison with the Manchester City and England star is ironic. For if things had turned out a bit different Walker could be playing with him now.

City asked him to go up to Maine Road for a month's trial when he left school. But he did not fancy it and turned them down.

"I don't know why I rejected the offer. City are a great club and most boys would give their right arm to join them.

"But it just did not appeal to me. Now if it had been Manchester United I would have jumped at the chance."



CLIVE
WALKER

Walker was United mad as a boy and worshipped Best. But they made no move for him and he was left to choose from a string of clubs that included Chelsea, Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers.

And the lad who, when 16, clocked 11.2 for the 100 yards—wearing football boots!—says it was tough and go whether he joined Chelsea or Q.P.R.

"I was impressed with the set-up at Shepherd's Bush and liked the ambitions of Gordon Jago, who was the manager at the time.

"But Rangers had not really established themselves then and they were still in the Second Division.

"Chelsea, by comparison, were doing well in the First—and that's what clinched things in their favour. It's a decision I have never regretted.

"There is an unbelievable atmosphere and spirit at Stamford Bridge. Everyone is pulling in the same direction and I don't see how we can fail to achieve something big.

"All the lads are finding their feet as First Division players, manager Ken Shellito is finding his—as a First Division manager and we all get along great.

"It took me some time to settle down when I left my home at Oxford and came to live in London and I was not really at my best for a couple of years.

"But I'm married now, have just bought a house in Reading and life has never been better.

"That's marvellous news for Chelsea fans. But it won't be too well received at other First Division clubs—who can expect Walker to haunt them for some years to come.

'A HAPPY ROVERS' RETURN'

FOR BOBBY GOULD

THE happy wanderer. That is what I'm called and in many ways the description is correct. Seven clubs have had me on their books—make it eight if you take in two separate stints with Wolves.

But this wanderer is happier than ever now because I have stopped wandering. I have settled in Bristol and whatever Rovers have in mind for me nothing will shift me from this part of the country.

I moved to the area when Bristol City bought me from West Bromwich. After that, I was transferred back again to Wolves. But not once did I consider leaving my home in Portishead, which is a suburb of Bristol.

The journeys from home to training and back again were at times boring. But where I am concerned, there are other things in life more important than football. My family.

FAMILY TOP

We are all very happy in Bristol, so when Rovers paid £10,000 last October I could not sign quickly enough. I like to think that I have my priorities right. With me it is no problem—my family is top of the list.

Honestly, I would never have believed that I would leave the Midlands. Coventry signed me from school and I made my debut at the age of 17. That was at Shrewsbury in October, 1963.

Fourteen years later, almost to the day, I played my first match for Rovers... and celebrated with a hat-trick against Blackburn. The facts of those two matches show that I am 31 and not 32, 33, or 34 as has been suggested.

What does age matter, anyway? You are only as old as you feel and having returned to Bristol I feel younger than ever.

After that hat-trick I had a lean

spell, but ended the famine at Stoke early in December.

We have a lot of good young players coming along and I hope that my experience will help them along the way. My travels didn't bother me at all. My transfer fees total about £400,000, so my share-out has been more than useful to secure my future.

Now my main consideration is the future of Rovers. It is rather pleasing and rewarding to help bring along young players and I had experience of this when at Molineux for my second spell with Wolves.

Despite last season's setback, watch out for Wolves. They have some very, very good young players. Mel Eves, for example, is so brilliant, he is frightening. He is not the only one.

Am I a restless person who cannot settle down? No chance. In all my moves, I asked only once for a transfer. Strangely, too, it was from Bristol City—from the area with which my family had fallen in love.

But all's well that ends well. I am back in my favourite part of the country. They have made me happy again and they will be repaid... with loyalty and endeavour. I am really looking forward to helping them on the road to the success which they deserve so much.

Football has been good to me. I like to think that I have also done my share for football. I have been happy with every club, but never more so than when living in the West Country.

That is why I am so grateful to Rovers for taking me back to this part of England.

The Rovers' return is what I am after. Wonder would Ena Sharples object to that? I don't think so. Under that hair-net I bet she's gold. But not Bobby Gould. I never wear one!

'GINGER' HASN'T LET FAME GO TO HIS HEAD



THE modesty of David Fairclough is the first thing to impress any person meeting him. And he has no intention of letting football fame go to his ginger-topped head.

He explains: "You can be a star one day and a 'has-been' the next. Why get big-headed? Footballers are just doing a job the same as, say, the dustman or the engine-driver or any top scientist or surgeon.

"Anyway, my parents would never allow it. I live with my parents and my brother and sister on a neat council estate. They would soon cut me down to size if I started putting on airs. They have no problems for the simple reason that I believe in their approach.

"You know what hurts me most is when the lads on the estate come and ask me to play with them and I can't. Possibly some of them think that I am giving them the brush-off because I'm too good a player — NOW.

"That's impossible. It's playing with them in my earlier days that helped me to be where I am ... in the Liverpool squad. We used to be kicking a football from morning to night. Only bad light would stop play."

His father was watching young David at every opportunity. He insisted that his boy David learned early to become a two-footed player. It is a lesson which more

and more defenders wish had never been given to the 20-year-old Kop star.

But once he signed for Liverpool as a 13-year-old, his father let the club take over. Says Liverpool manager Bob Paisley: "I hardly ever see David's father. That makes a pleasant change. Believe me, we often let promising young lads go because their parents keep interfering and trying to tell us our business."

Fairclough is pleased with his progress. He says: "I always wanted to play for Liverpool. I wanted to do so long before they registered me at 13.

"They have been good to me; they have developed me; they have helped me in every way. It is what I expected at Anfield and the club has fully lived up to my expectations.

"I remember getting mad in a match against Manchester United when Tommy Smith accused me of not trying. Me, not trying for the team I idolised.

"I was furious, but not long after I got the ball and ran through the United defence, drew the 'keeper off his line and put the ball in the net.

"Tommy was delighted and he has coaxed and encouraged me ever since. That was an important goal for me. It proved to Smithy, a superb professional that I would never stop trying for the club.

GOOD GOAL

"During the 1975-76 season I scored against Everton and the newspapers were full of it. I suppose you could say it was a good goal. I went past two or maybe three defenders before scoring."

Fairclough stops for a moment, then goes on: "I scored a couple against Manchester City when we beat them 3-0 on Easter Monday in the same season.

"My team-mates were all over me and I felt great. Yet, what pleased me most was when City skipper Mike Doyle came over and congratulated me. That was real sportsmanship. It was a terrific moment for me."

Another moment David will never forget is helping Liverpool win the European Cup for the second year in succession at Wembley on May 10th.

"I got the nod over Steve Heighway, who came on as sub. At last I knew I had established myself."

Liverpool have come up to Fairclough's expectations. The club have expectations regarding Fairclough. Great expectations!

If he fails, it will not be for the want of trying. Tommy Smith will confirm ...

THE performances of signings like Gerry Ryan (Derby County), Paul McGee (Queens Park Rangers) and Ashley Grimes (Manchester United) last season would seem to indicate that the gap in standards between the First Division of the Football League and the Bass League of Ireland is closing.

Ryan, signed from Bohemians in September, went straight into Derby's League side and had a string of fine displays to his credit before injury forced him out.

McGee, signed from Sligo Rovers in November, also made a big impression, while Grimes, transferred from Bohemians in February, 1977, was a member of United's first team squad all season earning valuable League and Cup experience.

Previously, part-timers transferred from the League of Ireland often took two or three seasons to establish themselves so



Eire closing the gap on England



Top of the page: Paul McGee, signed by Q.P.R. from Sligo Rovers. Above: Gerry Ryan joined Derby from Bohemians.

amount of skill as the fellows over here.

"In the League of Ireland the ball is played up to you and the defender is into you straightaway. In England the defenders lay off you; they allow you to get the ball, come off the defender and turn. It then depends on your skill to beat him."

Shamrock Rovers' striker Ray Treacy, who played in the First Division with West Brom in 1976-77, agrees with McGee.

"The standard in Ireland has risen and individual players are closing the gap, but there is still a gulf overall. There are not as many bad or ordinary players in England as there are in Ireland, but our good players, given the chance, could make the grade in the First Division."

Ashley Grimes thinks that Gerry Ryan was the exception, that very few League of Ireland players could go straight into a First Division side.

"However, there are plenty of players with the First Division skills in the League of Ireland," he conceded. "All they need is a lucky break."

Republic of Ireland player-manager Johnny Giles, now with Shamrock Rovers after 20 years of First Division football, made an interesting point about standards of play.

"It all depends on the standard the individual sets himself," he said. "I've always put the same pressure on myself in every game I play. Naturally, then, against poor opposition you'll play better."

"My aim at Shamrock Rovers is to get a lot of good individuals and so raise the standard."

Giles, whose efforts are already bearing fruit for the Dublin club, also made the general point: "There will always be players in the League of Ireland who will make the grade in England."

the evidence seems to point to an improvement in Irish standards of skill and fitness.

There's no doubt that the top teams in Ireland have adopted a more professional approach in recent years and it is significant that the three players mentioned above have all come from Cup and Championship-winning teams.

Q.P.R. striker, McGee, says: "The team difference can't be compared but in almost every team in Ireland you could pinpoint one fellow who could make it in England. He would have the same

Meet Steve Carter

SHOOT'S "Mr Letters"

I reckon I've got the best job on SHOOT. I may not earn as much as the Editor, but being in charge of opening readers' mail brings me closer than anyone else on the magazine to the people who really matter.

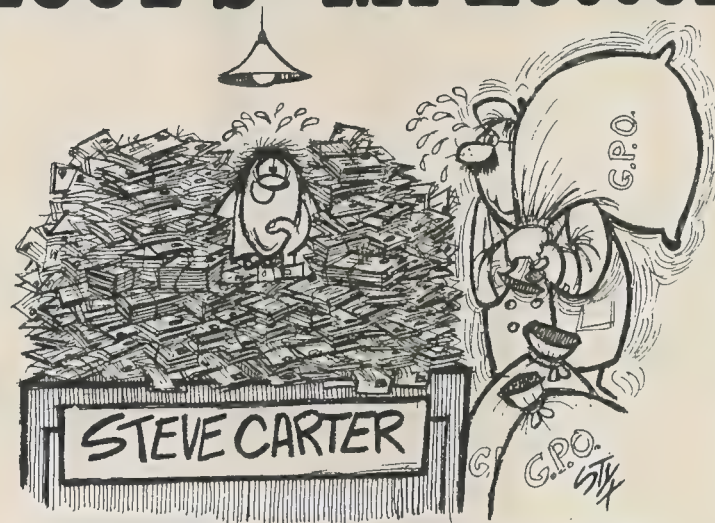
While a lot of people have that Monday morning feeling — if you don't go to work yet, you'll have to ask a friend what I mean! — Monday is my favourite day as our mailbag is largest.

Despite what some people believe, and such people will NEVER be convinced so I've long stopped worrying about them, every single letter sent to our magazine is read. Not just skimmed through, but read thoroughly.

If a reader takes the time and trouble to write to me — even to criticise SHOOT for something — then the least I can do is to read his or her letter.

As regular readers will know, we are always willing to publish letters of constructive criticism regarding SHOOT. We feel we must present both sides of an argument, so if we say, for example, Player A isn't worth his fee, then if readers disagree, their views should also be aired.

We get letters from all over the world — literally. English is the second language of many countries and with so many English-speaking nations, we are in a privileged position. Those letters received in, say, Polish we



try to have translated.

Our mailbag from behind the Iron Curtain is increasing all the time, mainly from fans wanting pen-pals. SHOOT isn't on general sale in the East, owing to restrictions, but copies are sent there by British readers who have pen-friends and these issues are passed around. I've had just one letter for the U.S.S.R., but not one from China. Maybe one day...

Readers in the Far East and Australia always grumble that SHOOT takes three months to reach them. This is because the magazines are shipped by sea; to send them by air would mean a very high cover price, although I think there are plans to help those who don't mind paying what would be the best part of £1 per issue. Such is the attraction of SHOOT in soccer's far-flung countries.

In Europe, most of our mail comes from Scandinavia, where English is taught from a young age and letters from 11-year-olds are written in near-perfect English. Our League games are seen regularly in Scandinavia and I'm convinced our friends over there know as much about British football as the average fan here.

As soccer grows in the States, so does the popularity of SHOOT and the fans in North America are eager to read about the players who make up the bulk of their League.

SHOOT doesn't find its way to South America very often. I have the occasional letter from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, but generally speaking, the Third World doesn't know about us. The same goes for Central America.

As more and more British coaches and managers fix themselves up with lucrative jobs in the Middle East, I find our postbag from there gets bigger. Thankfully, the fans don't write in Arabic!

Now that television is established in South Africa, readers there can see their heroes in action, although because the country is not in F.I.F.A., teams can't travel there to be seen live.

I receive quite a few letters from supporters studying at school and many opt to prepare a thesis on soccer. That's fine, but some ask me to do it for them! Last season I received a request for facts and figures that would have taken me at least two full working weeks to supply!

I must confess that my own favourite topic is the England/Scotland rivalry. And I'll know I'll be criticised for writing England/Scotland and not Scotland/England.

The Scots fans amaze me. In terms of supporting their team, they are the best in the world, without a doubt. They'll follow Bonnie Scotland anywhere, anytime regardless of anything.

Yet I find their attitude towards England incomprehensible and, at times to be honest, extreme. The Scots have it in their heads that every fan in England dislikes Scotland, which is just about as far from the truth as you can get.

English supporters have tremendous admiration for Scottish players and realise without Scots (not forgetting the Welsh and Irish) the Football League would be considerably weaker.

I was appalled that not one

reader in Scotland condemned the awful behaviour of their fans at Wembley in 1977. They seemed to approve the pitch invasion.

The feeling in Scotland was that criticism of the invading fans was "sour grapes because England lost", the damage was "vastly exaggerated" and anyway "English supporters also cause trouble."

There lies the root of the evil — for the Scots EVERYTHING is compared with England, and I'm still not sure if that's a compliment to the English or not!

I remember Alan Ball writing in SHOOT that he used to have the utmost admiration for Scotland, but the attitude of the Scots turned him against them. He and his wife were spat on and sworn at by Scots after an England victory.

I wish Scottish fans would have more to say about their own clubs and players rather than simply writing to me criticising England.

Rivalry between countries is what soccer is all about, but it must be kept in proportion. Next season, I'd like to see Scots readers sending me more constructive letters... especially about their own domestic scene... because I'm sure the majority of readers are growing tired of the same old anti-England and England comparisons.

And before you say "that's a typical English remark" — I'm Welsh and I'm on the outside looking in.

I'm often asked if Steve Carter of Notts County is any relation. No — and, as the STYX cartoon shows, we don't even look alike!

A lot of readers are quick to write to us pointing out mistakes in SHOOT. Of course, we try to keep SHOOT as accurate as possible, but human errors are inevitable.

Few magazines leave themselves as open to mistakes as SHOOT, which is filled with facts each week. Also, different reference books often give conflicting figures, yet overall we like to think our mistakes are few and don't spoil the overall enjoyment of SHOOT.

My own favourite letter of all-time? There are so many it's hard to single one out. However, I have to give full marks to the reader who, having read SHOOT and discovered he'd lost his shinpads, tore his issue in half and made a paper pair!

That idea gave me a, er, real kick!



Notts County star Steve Carter... no relation to SHOOT'S Mr. Postbag.

I have been around this game for more years than I care to remember now, but I doubt if I'll ever play in a more amazing game than a League match against Motherwell at Fir Park last season.

Picture the scene. Motherwell, under the managership of my old Ibrox mate Roger Hynd, had gone six games without defeat. In fact, they hadn't even lost a goal.

Then against us Jim O'Rourke and Vic Davidson scored two goals in two minutes. There was a break-in by the fans as missiles were thrown on to the pitch. The referee took us off for five minutes and when we returned we scored FIVE goals. See what I mean about it being an incredible match?



Gordon Smith got the equaliser, before Davie Cooper put us ahead just after the interval. Then came another piece of individual magic from Johnstone.

He outstripped the Motherwell defence and sent a cunning flicked shot over Rennie's shoulder for number four. Then came another astonishing goal in this incredible game.

Fir Park centre-half Willie McVie, facing his own goal, blasted a vicious, unstoppable shot high past his own keeper. No one could have stopped that mighty wallop.

Vic Davidson hit another for Motherwell and that ended the scoring in this remarkable eight-

goal thriller.

I think the game proved that we would be worthy Champions. There aren't many teams who will be able to give Motherwell two goals of a start on their own pitch and come back to win.

It was nice to hear Roger Hynd praising Rangers after that match. He must have been upset, but he still said Motherwell had been beaten by the better, more professional side.

Anyway, when I am going for a stroll along memory lane and someone asks me which game rates as one of the most astonishing I have ever played in, that one will come readily to mind.

That's all for now. Stay safe...

'WHY BEATING MOTHERWELL WAS A SOCCER SENSATION'

Honestly, anything could have happened in that game. If a spaceship from Mars had landed on the centre-circle it would have been in keeping with the unbelievable happenings.

Regular readers of my column in SHOOT know what I think of soccer hooligans. They have no place in the game and they are a disgrace.

Anyway, getting back to the actual game, I would like to say here and now that big Derek Johnstone scored a goal that will always have a place in my memory.

It is the sort of goal you might have expected from the great Pele at his very best. Or the brilliant Johan Cruyff. It had the combination of bravery, quick-thinking, alertness and deadly finishing. It was, in fact, the first goal Stuart Rennie had lost in seven games and he can have no complaints.

A long ball was played forward

and big Derek sped past a defender after the pass. Rennie came out of his goal, but Derek got there just before him, lobbed the ball over his head and then dived full-length to get his own head to the ball and send it into the net.

I rate Derek as one of the best finishers in the game and that goal certainly proved just how dangerous he is in and around that box. Yet, funnily enough, Derek reckons his best position is centre-half!

John Greig



Gordon Smith heads past Motherwell 'keeper, Stuart Rennie, this time at Ibrox. Rangers also won that game last term, 3-1.



Nottingham Forest
sharpshooter Peter
Withe (number nine) fires
in a close-range effort
against Manchester City.





Smiling John Chiedozie in action ... and in bed after his accident.

Picture of John in hospital from the Orient programme.

Leg-break victim John kept on smiling

THE story of a broken leg may not appear to be happiest of themes for an article, but, of course, injuries are part and parcel of soccer just like goals and near-misses.

But this story is far from being unhappy; more than anything it shows the courage of a player just making a name for himself and then suffering a severe setback.

The player is John Chiedozie, the 18-year-old Orient winger who succeeded Laurie Cunningham in The O's first team when Laurie signed for West Brom.

John had claimed a regular place from the start of 1977/78 and helped Orient on the way to their magnificent F.A. Cup run. It was John's centre that enabled Peter Kitchen to score the winner at Norwich in the Third Round.

The following night the O's had a Southern Floodlit Junior Cup Semi-Final at Ipswich and John, eager to help the club in any way, made himself available. He's that sort of competitor and loves playing.

John came on as sub and had played barely ten minutes when

he sustained a broken right leg after a completely accidental clash with the Ipswich 'keeper.

If you've ever wondered what happens immediately after a player breaks a leg ... listen to Orient chairman Brian Winston, who takes up the story.

"It was obvious John was in pain as he was stretchered to the Ipswich medical room. A doctor diagnosed the trouble and not once did John complain, even though he was in agony.

"An ambulance arrived within three minutes and John was transferred to a stretcher from the medical couch ... still smiling.

"Manager Jimmy Bloomfield and secretary Peter Barnes went in the ambulance with John. I fol-

lowed in my car with John's clothes.

"John kept raising his head to see that I was still there and waving to me — and of course, smiling.

"At the hospital he was transferred to a trolley and even though he had to close his eyes with pain, still smiled.

"By the time the X-rays had been taken, John had been in pain for almost two hours, yet had never once complained. It was decided that it would be best to apply a splint so that our own club doctor could deal with the problem the following day.

"So, we transferred John yet again — this time to the back seat of my car and we travelled home

with his leg propped up by towels, still in kit with a coat over his shoulders ... still smiling.

"John lives in Forest Gate, East London, with his family in an attic room converted into a bed-sit/den, which meant carrying John up four flights of stairs.

"We stopped on each landing and John told us that had he been wearing his usual number seven jersey instead of number 12 he would have been lighter to carry!

"We left him on his bed and John actually apologised to us for any inconvenience. Smiling, of course.

"The next day John was taken to the club where our doctor treated him.

"We hear so much about the bad side of the game, yet rarely do such deeds of bravery receive coverage.

"I've never seen anyone display so much courage as John did that night. At 40 I am old enough to be John's father and, I must add, I would be proud to be so!"

John is recovering well and should be ready for the start of next season ... smiling, of course!

Ken Burns- A SUPER REF

WHEN referee Ken Burns first arrived on the Football League list 17 years ago, his principal duty was to go out and administer the Laws of the Game.

"In the main, players would accept it," he recalls. "All they wanted to do was to get on with the game and enjoy themselves."

"Today it seems that the interpretation is the last thing a referee is out there for. He's there to be a diplomat. He's there to check the teams' colours and studs. And whatever you might read or hear to the contrary, studs are still checked. There's liaison with the police on bomb hoaxes and hooligan control. You name it; we've got it."

Ken, now 47, bowed out of the arena at the end of the season, having reached the compulsory retirement age. "I'll be at the Post Office every Thursday to collect my pension," he quips in a stylish Black Country accent.

But on a more serious note and in an era where referees are constantly under fire, what is the secret that made the Stourbridge whistler so popular, so well respected?

"I think respect stems from your integrity, your real honesty," he told SHOOT! "You've got to be courageous and firm. You've got to be scrupulously fair and to understand what makes players tick. It's really a question of man management."

"You've got to prove to players through your decisions that you're not going to favour them one way or another, and when the courage is needed it's there."

"Also, they expect referees to give them a certain amount of protection when in the heat of the moment something might happen which causes them to blow up. Players want referees to understand this, especially the ones who are easily intimidated by sides who deliberately set out to provoke them into losing their tempers, which could lead to a booking or an early bath."

What's Ken's view on professional refs?

"This tends to get confused with full-time refs and I'll deal with that later. But I consider that all whistlers — at whatever level they play — are professionals. Ini-



tially, they've had to be recruited and coached into the Laws of the Game.

"They've had to sit an examination, and furthermore, from the time they pass that examination to become a junior referee every step up is done by an assessment of their performance on the field of play."

"It doesn't matter what walk of life you are in. Whether you're an apprentice on the factory floor or articulated in the professions, the only way you're going to get anywhere is by examination, experience

and learning. By the time a referee reaches Football League status, then he's been through a hell of a lot and I think he's fully justified in saying he's a professional in every sense of the word."

"As far as full-time refs are concerned, that's a different matter altogether. There are many referees at the top level, and I'm talking about your senior Football League men now — the F.I.F.A. chaps, those involved in international European and World Cup matches. People just don't understand the amount of work that's put in already."

"If people are saying that they should have no other job at all, then I for one am against the idea. I think it could be the first step to bribery in this country and to entry through the back door."

Outstanding moments of Ken's career?

"The F.A. Cup Final in 1973 between Sunderland and Leeds without any shadow of a doubt. It's the biggest thrill for any English referee."

"Also it was a moment of pure magic when I refereed the European Super Cup Final two years last August at the Olympic Stadium in Munich. This was between the worthy European Champions Bayern Munich and Anderlecht, who were the reigning European Cup Winners' Cup winners."

Plans for the future?

"I hope to carry on being connected with football, coaching referees and being involved with the lads who are coming through. I hope I shall be able to play an active part in ensuring that the standard of British refereeing, is improved upon where possible."

"I'd like us to get back to the stage where we can boast that our referees are the best in the world."



The highlight of a fine career . . . refereeing the 1973 F.A. Cup Final between Leeds United and Sunderland.

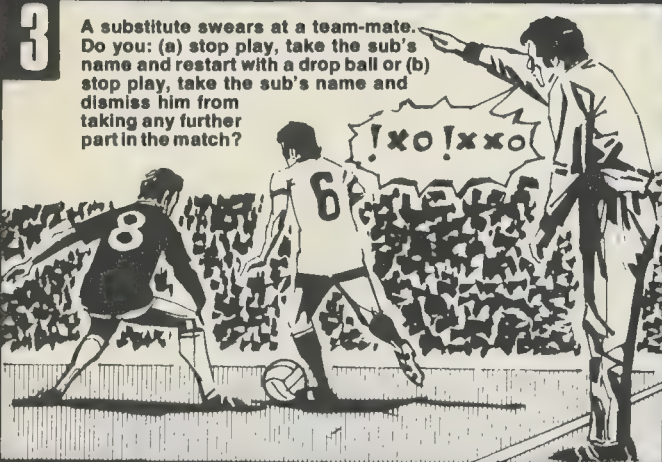
YOU ARE THE REF



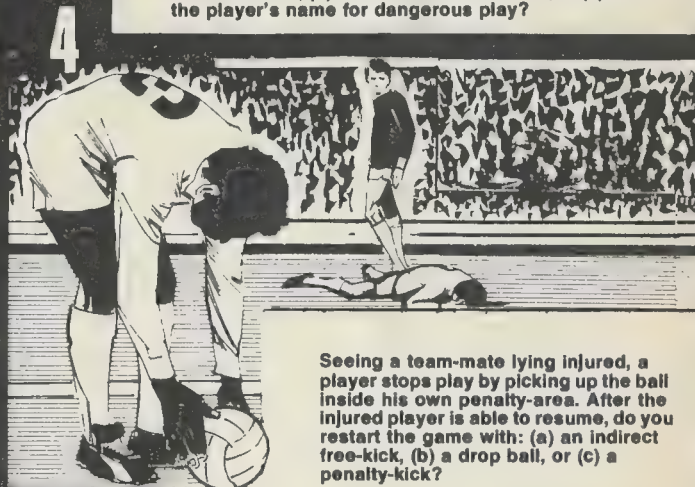
You are cautioning a player and ask him his name. Despite several requests he refuses to tell you. Do you: (a) just take note of his number, (b) ask his captain for assistance, or (c) send him off?



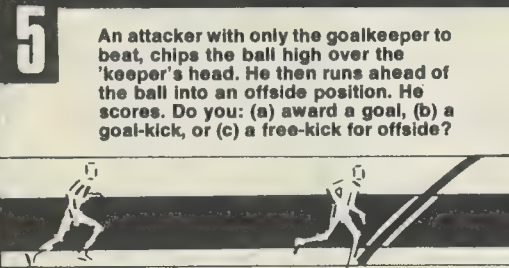
A player makes contact with the ball when it is dangerously close to a team-mate's head. Do you: (a) take no action, (b) award a direct free-kick, or (c) take the player's name for dangerous play?



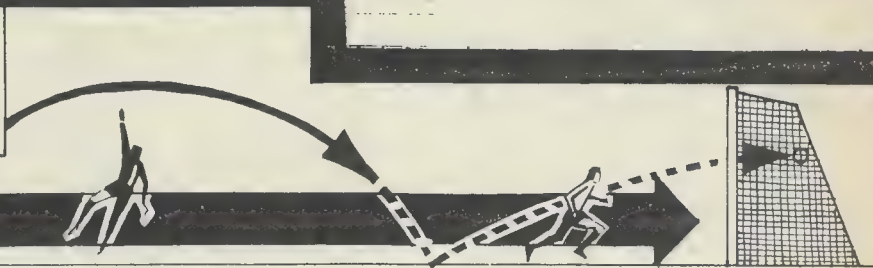
A substitute swears at a team-mate. Do you: (a) stop play, take the sub's name and restart with a drop ball or (b) stop play, take the sub's name and dismiss him from taking any further part in the match?



Seeing a team-mate lying injured, a player stops play by picking up the ball inside his own penalty-area. After the injured player is able to resume, do you restart the game with: (a) an indirect free-kick, (b) a drop ball, or (c) a penalty-kick?



An attacker with only the goalkeeper to beat, chips the ball high over the 'keeper's head. He then runs ahead of the ball into an offside position. He scores. Do you: (a) award a goal, (b) a goal-kick, or (c) a free-kick for offside?



ANSWERS

called on-4.(c) A penalty-kick. The referee is the sole authority for stopping a game. 5. (a) Award a goal, because the attacker was the last player to touch the ball.

1. (c) You must send him off, for persisting in misconduct after committing a cautionable offence. 2. (a) Take no action. 3. (a) Stop play, take the sub's name and restart with a drop ball. He can still be allowed to take part in the game if

Four stars
select their...

'MOST IMPROVED

FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION



'Leighton Phillips – super sweeper'

TERRY YORATH (Coventry)



L EIGHTON Phillips of Aston Villa must be my choice. I rate Leighton as the best sweeper we have got in this country. He's a good passer, can read the game well and is a good tackler. He has great skills on the ball and I think making him Villa captain has brought the best out of him.

Last season, he looked a real class player. Leighton did supremely well because at the start of last season he had a new centre-back to play alongside and that is always a little unsettling. But he combined well with Ken

McNaught (from Everton) even though I know he liked playing alongside Chris Nicholl (now Southampton).

Leighton was sent-off last season for waving a pair of fingers at the referee, after he'd been booked. But I think that was most unusual for him because I haven't seen him lose his temper before. Discipline is usually a strong point of his game and it was a rare sight to see that happen.

It was a difficult season for Villa. They had a lot of injuries to contend with. They got a very difficult F.A. Cup draw and went out early on at Everton. And in the League, they failed to find any real consistency.

But from what I've seen of him. I think Leighton has skipped them well and led them by example. To me, he's a far better player than 1976-77... the captaincy has undoubtedly helped him mature. He improved more than anyone else in the First Division last season.

'Alan Ball – better than ever'

MIKE FLANAGAN (Charlton)



T he one player who stood out above all others for me last term was Southampton's Alan Ball.

I know it may sound a bit daft talking of improvement about a man who helped England win the World Cup Final as long ago as 1966. But in terms of his value to Southampton, I believe Ballie was the most improved performer in the Second Division.

Apart from his own form he helped youngsters like Steve Williams to develop and mature. And that's only one aspect of his game.

Ball seems to be getting better and better as he gets older. He sees so much so early and the goal he scored against Charlton, was sheer world class... nothing less.

Ball has got hold of Saints in the middle of the park and he's the reason they looked a completely different team last season and went on to achieve deserved promotion to the First Division.

He is still a world class midfield player, as far as I'm concerned. He is so enthusiastic and seems as sharp as ever before. It must be the challenge that's motivating him because you really wouldn't guess his age if you didn't know it.

The way he is playing it's like he is 22 or 23 again.

I firmly believe England discarded Ballie too soon. They missed his inspiration and drive in midfield as results a couple of years ago proved.

Alan Ball has always liked a challenge and he relished in Saints' promotion fight. He was easily the best midfield player in the Second Division and I don't think that was true the season before last. That's why I picked him as my most improved player of the year even at the age of 32!



PLAYER OF THE YEAR'

THIRD DIVISION



'Ken Price – much more of a threat'

ARFON GRIFFITHS (player-manager,
Wrexham)



GILLINGHAM'S Ken Price really got among the goals last season — as he showed at our ground in an important Third Division promotion battle.

Price scored a hat-trick and cost us a point with that display. I was most impressed with the way he'd changed from the year before, when he tended to run about with no real threat at all. But last season, he did much better because he worked harder, thinking more about the game and getting in on the end of things.

In 1976-77, he was never really there to put the ball away and to snap up the loose chances that come and go quickly. But last term, that changed. He was there each time against us and picked up a hat-trick in a 3-3 draw. That's good going on someone else's ground, and I was especially impressed with the way he got into the position to score because our defence is so tight.

Price is a big, strong lad and now throws his weight about. His temper was a bit suspect too, in the past, but it looked like he improved that, as well. At one time, defenders could upset him quite easily because he got niggled quickly. But he's learned to control himself.

Possibly, Ken could do with a bit more ball control. He is good in the air and quite quick. Ken's goals helped The Gills remain in the promotion hunt all season. I think people will be hearing a lot more from him in 1978-79.

FOURTH DIVISION

'Alan Mayes – makes and takes goals'

JACKIE GRAHAM (Brentford)

LAST season was the best ever for Alan Mayes of Watford — by far the most improved player in Division Four.

Of course, being in a Championship-winning side was bound to help. And it's nice to have scored lots of goals, which Mayes did.

Alan looked especially sharp last term. His pace, skill, class and fine running off the ball all make him a bit special. He's got tremendous vision, too, and that helped him set up and score goals for Watford.

The big lad Ross Jenkins also reached double figures for goals last season and a lot of that must be down to Mayes. His runs often drew defenders away into bad positions, giving Jenkins the chance to score. Mayes knocks the ball off to colleagues nice and early and he's a very difficult guy to mark.

He's not big — about 10 stone and only 5' 7". But he still makes life very tough for opposing defences whenever he's on the



field. He has had a lot to do with Watford's success — there's no doubt about that. And I'm not surprised clubs from the higher Divisions have been chasing him.

A year or so ago he wasn't as good and one of the reasons was he lacked confidence.

He believes in himself now, though, as Third Division defences will find out to their cost next term.



'FOREST OUT TO WIN ALL THE HONOURS'

says Peter Shilton

THE great controversy in football is: "Who is the better goalkeeper, Peter Shilton or Ray Clemence?" It's a split decision and no mistake.

Shilton, who moved from Stoke City to Nottingham Forest for £270,000 fee, refuses to be drawn into the argument. He is a pal of Clemence and rooms with him on England tours.

But he is ambitious and wants that England spot back on a regular basis. He says: "I don't pick the team and if the final choice is Ray, that's it."

"Critics have said that I am not so good on the deck as Ray. That's their opinion and they are entitled to give it. If I prove them wrong, the first to congratulate me will be Ray Clemence."

"As for not being so good with low shots, I would dispute that. What I mean is that I can get down to the low balls as quickly as most goalkeepers."

A WINNER

Shilton, although not in the Stan Bowles class of punters, likes a day at the races. He says: "One thing of which I am certain is that I backed a winner when I joined Forest. I know, too, that Forest manager Brian Clough would not have paid all that money for me if he thought I was weak on the floor."

"It's super being at Forest. They are a side out to win all the honours and rival Liverpool's successes. I am not saying they will do so, but none of my money would say that they don't."

"There's something about Forest. The manager and assistant Peter Taylor have them playing good, positive football... as we proved last season."

"The crowds have flocked back to the City Ground and the atmosphere is terrific. Knowing they are behind you helps tremendously and it is their loyalty

that brings out that little bit more in players."

"They were a fine bunch of lads at Stoke and the same can be said about Leicester. I mean that sincerely, but at Forest I have this feeling we will remain at the top for a long, long time."

Shilton ponders this for a moment and adds: "Mind you I am not saying that Forest are going to win the League again next season."

"However, for the first time in my career I have been in a team which first set the pace at the top of the Division and then stayed there. I like to think that I have contributed something to our success, but no way can any one man in the squad take the credit."

"The boss has everyone working for him. If they stop, he will have them out. And that includes me."

Another often criticised part of Shilton's keeping is the way in which he seems to take high crosses when the ball is past him.

He explains: "When I was at Leicester I was lucky enough to have Gordon Banks in the first team. He always insisted that a goalkeeper should take a cross at the highest point he can reach. In my case, it happens to be when the ball is just slightly past me."

"Banksie, who helped me so much, agrees. And who can argue with possibly the greatest goalkeeper England has had for a long time?"

Getting back to the Clemence or Shilton debate. Brian Clough rates Shilton the best goalkeeper in Britain. With Clough's splendid track record, how can anyone argue with him?

Unless you support Liverpool!



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Not satisfied with arguing with the ref..."



"Exactly how long have you been sitting on the sub's bench, Joe?"



"Can't I ever contradict you without being shown the yellow card?"



"I wish we could relax at half-time like all the other teams, boss."



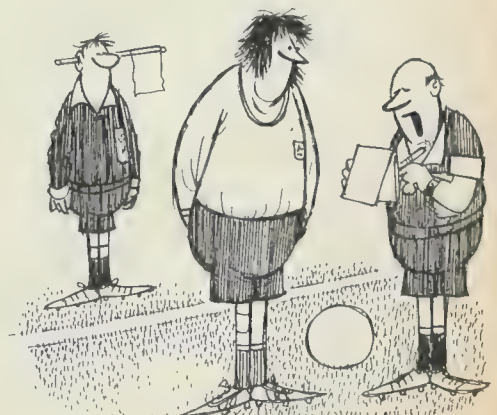
"I see the local bloke who won a fortune on the pools is going to remain anonymous."



"Don't tell me the all-conquering, unbeatable invincibles have gone and got themselves knocked out of the Cup?"



"I reckon it's about time the club bought us some new gear."



"I'm booking you for disputing a linesman's signal."

IPSWICH skipper Mick Mills is in no doubt as to why his side did not live up to expectations in the First Division last season.

Instead of mounting a strong title challenge, as many experts felt they would, the Portman Road outfit spent most of the time hovering around mid-table and even, at one stage, facing up to the very real threat of relegation.

"It was a very new experience for most of us," said Mick, "because we had not been out of the top six in five years and had begun to think of ourselves as one of the leading teams in the country."

"We never really felt we were in danger of returning to the Second Division but all of a sudden there

at Norwich, striker Trevor Whymark suffered badly torn knee ligaments that put him out of action for three months.

It was a casualty list that prompted manager Bobby Robson to say: "I've never known it so bad in my nine years at Ipswich. I was almost scared to let the lads play cards on the coach in case someone broke a wrist!"

"Seriously, though, it was no laughing matter. At one stage I reckon I had about one million pounds worth of players out of action and there are very few clubs that could survive in that situation."

"Full marks to the lads who escaped injury. They had to battle on against the odds and eventually our problems started to ease to such an extent that everyone was available towards the end of the season when the F.A. Cup was occupying so much of our time."

"Despite winning the trophy, we were all disappointed because our League form had slumped so badly. We had set very high standards at the club over the previous five years and naturally wanted to maintain the consistency."

Back to skipper Mills, who wrote himself into the record books with his 500th first team

appearance: "Looking at the situation realistically, we can achieve a lot in the future from last season's misfortune."

"Young players like Les Tibbott, John Stirk, Russell Osman, David Geddis and Robin Turner all enjoyed runs in the first team and the experience they gained will help them to mature a lot quicker than if they were stuck in the reserves."

"I look at last season and recall our great Cup run, to Wembley, together with a memorable U.E.F.A. Cup campaign in which we were very unlucky to lose to Barcelona in the Third Round on penalties."

"I'm far from despondent as we look ahead to a new season. I know we've got the players at Ipswich to challenge for the Championship — providing we can keep clear of injury!"

Skipper Mick Mills explains...

'WHY IPSWICH SLUMPED IN THE LEAGUE'

didn't seem to be much of a gap between ourselves and the bottom two or three and we had to accept that we were too close for comfort.

"I would blame our poor form on one thing only — the injury problems that were with us all through the season. I believe they were so bad that had several other sides encountered them they would have been relegated."

"We never seemed to have a settled side — there were always one or two players hobbling around and spending most of their time in the treatment room. I began to wonder if our luck would ever change."

The Ipswich hard luck story started before a ball had been kicked in earnest and it was Mick himself who was the first casualty, requiring a cartilage operation two weeks before the season got under way.

He missed the first nine games, but another pre-season victim, Scottish Under-21 captain John Wark, spent far longer on the sidelines and did not make his comeback until the F.A. Cup Third Round tie at Cardiff in January.

England cap, Colin Viljoen, had been out of action for two years when he returned to the side and another international star, defender Kevin Beattie, needed a cartilage operation in October and was out until near the end of the season.

Full-back, George Burley, missed 15 games with an ankle knock and then in the Boxing Day fixture

Ipswich drew 3-3 in their First Division tussle at Q.P.R. Here, David Geddis congratulates Paul Mariner (right) scorer of Town's third goal.



West Ham's Derek Hales is able to get in a shot despite the attention of Wolves' Martin Patching (number four) and Kenny Hibbitt.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S quiz time

1. These managers were either sacked or resigned last season. From which clubs did they leave? (a) Sir Alf Ramsey, (b) Gordon Jago (below), (c) Richard Dinnis, and (d) Don Megson.
2. You should know Ipswich Town beat Arsenal in last term's



F.A. Cup Final at Wembley . . . but can you remember who knocked out these clubs in earlier rounds? (a) Tottenham (Third), (b) Leicester (Fourth), (c) Blyth Spartans (Fifth), and (d) Middlesbrough (Sixth)?

3. Which two clubs were relegated from the Scottish Premier Division last season?

4. Watford powered to the Fourth Division Championship for the first time in the club's history. Who guided them as manager to the title?

5. Can you identify these Scottish clubs by their nicknames? (a) The Shire, (b) Spiders, (c) The Bully Wee, (d) The Fifers.

6. He began his career with Dundee United before moving to Aberdeen. After 43 League games for them he was transferred to Wolves. Last season he went back to Scotland and joined Celtic where he was later given a free transfer. Who is he?

7. After many distinguished years with Liverpool and Wales, John Toshack took over the post as player-manager of which club?

8. Who refereed last season's F.A. Cup Final?

9. Nottingham Forest were crowned as the Football League Champions for the first, second or third time in the club's history?

10. Which clubs topped the Second and Third Divisions respectively?

11. Liverpool fought their way through to a second consecutive European Cup Final last season. Name the clubs they eliminated

on their run to Wembley?

12. Tommy Cassidy (Newcastle United), Alan Hudson (Arsenal, below), Leighton James (Queens Park Rangers), Ray O'Brien (Notts County) and Alex Cropley (Aston Villa) are all internationals. Who plays for (a) England, (b) Scot-



land, (c) Wales, (d) Northern Ireland, and (e) the Republic of Ireland?

13. Aberdeen and Rangers contested last season's Scottish Cup Final or League Cup Final at Hampden Park?

14. Name the following clubs' top goalscorers for the 1977-78 season . . . (a) Swansea City, (b) Bristol Rovers, and (c) West Bromwich Albion?

15. Graeme Souness (top right) was transferred to Liverpool from

Middlesbrough for an estimated fee of £327,000, £352,000 or £375,000?

16. England were knocked out by which country 3-2 on aggregate in the U.E.F.A. Under-21 Championship?

17. The full England side drew 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2 against the talented Brazil team at Wembley?

18. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of last term's Fourth Division's top goalscorers . . . VTSEE LLPPSIHI (DBTRRFNOE).

19. Which two countries kicked off this year's World Cup Finals in Argentina?

20. Which clubs would you be vis-



iting if you stood on the following terraces . . . (a) Leeds Road, (b) Somerton Park, (c) Sincil Bank, and (d) Shay Ground?

21. Which three clubs were relegated from the English First Division last season?

22. Who won Scotland's Footballer of the Year award last term?

ANSWERS:

1. (a) Birmingham City, (b) Millwall, (c) Newcastle United, (d) Bristol Rovers, 2. (a) Orient, 3. Ayr United and Clydebank, 4. Graham Taylor, 5. (a) East Stirling, (b) Queen's Park, (c) Clyde, (d) East Fife, 6. Frank Munro, 7. Swansea City, 8. Derek Nippard, 9. First, 10. Bolton and Wrexham, 11. Dynamo Dresden, Borussia Monchengladbach, 12. (a) Alan Hudson, (b) Alex Cropley, (c) Leighton James, (d) Tommy Cassidy, (e) Ray O'Brien, 13. Scottish Cup Final, 14. (a) Alan Curtis, (b) Paul Handall, (c) Tony Brown, 15. £352,000, 16. Yugoslavia, 17. 1-1, 18. Steve Phillips (Brentford), 19. West Germany and Poland, 20. (a) Huddersfield, (b) Newport, (c) Lincoln, (d) Halifax Town, 21. West Ham, Leicester and Newcastle, 22. Derek Johnstone (Rangers).

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS: (1) Boundary, (6) Eat, (8) Raise, (10) Large, (11) Total, (13) Age, (14) Ten, (15) Sad, (17) Mahoney, (20) My, (22) Net, (23) So, (24) Aloa, (27) Roars, (28) Major, (31) Tricks, (33) Gow, (34) Rest, (35) Eels.
DOWN: (1) Bird, (2) United, (3) Diet, (4) Roll, (5) Magpies, (6) Era, (7) Tee, (9) Son, (12) Alan, (14) Taylor, (15) Cottage, (16) Smarts, (18) He, (19) Your, (21) Force, (25) Lar, (26) Asks, (29) Joe, (30) Owl, (32) St.

Jumbled Name: COLIN BARRETT

BRIGHTON'S under-rated goalkeeper, Eric Steele, could have been starring in the Football League as an OUTFIELD player if things had worked out differently when he was a youngster.

"I was 14 at the time," explains Steele. "And as with most schools and youth teams, the kids in the side usually play anywhere."

"I was at wing-half when I was invited by Middlesbrough for a trial. Things didn't quite work out and that is when I decided to try and make the grade between the sticks."

Boro's North-East rivals Newcastle United came in for the likeable Steele and he signed amateur forms.

"The reason I stayed amateur was because I wanted to finish my schooling," says local-born Steele. "It was worth it for I gained two 'A' levels and six 'O'."

Eric was reserve team goalkeeper and while he was playing consistently well, he couldn't break into the League side. After around 70 games in the reserves, he decided to sort his future out with the club.

"The drawback with a big club," he says, "is the fact it is very difficult to establish yourself. I couldn't afford to wait any longer."

"I went in and saw the then manager Joe Harvey and explained to him I was prepared to drop a Division or two to play first team football."

"He understood and when

ERIC STEELE- the 'keeper who flopped as a wing-half

other clubs were informed, I had to choose between Luton Town, Preston and Peterborough. And when I spoke to manager Noel Cantwell and John Barnwell, I was so impressed by the set-up I had no hesitation joining Peterborough.

"Coach, Barnwell, had a big influence on me. He worked on my weak points and improved my game no end."

"The highlight for me at London Road was helping Peterborough United to the Fourth Division Championship in 1973-74. A proud moment."

INJURED

After 124 League games for the club, Eric Steele was once again climbing up the ladder towards the top when he joined Brighton and Hove Albion.

"I left Peterborough for one reason," says the talented number one. "I had been out injured and couldn't get back into the first team."

"And in February, 1977, Brighton manager Alan Mullery came in for me. I was particularly impressed with the boss once again and had no hesitation in signing. An added bonus was the club were in the top three of the Third Division."

"I managed to displace Peter Grummitt in goal and played in the last 15 League games and helped Brighton to finish second in the table and so gain promotion for the second time in my career."

"And last season was another highly successful one for me and the club as we consolidated our position and in fact just missed going up again."

"As for the future, all I want to do is enjoy my football and to break into the First Division would be an added bonus."

Who knows? Maybe Eric Steele could have made a fine career for himself as an outfield player if he'd persevered, but everyone down Brighton way is glad he decided to try his luck as a goalkeeper.



Sam Ellis went down to get ahead

WATFORD centre-half and skipper, Sam Ellis, first hit the football headlines when he was a member of Sheffield Wednesday's side that reached Wembley for the 1965-66 F.A. Cup Final against Everton.

"It may sound daft," says Ellis, "but I can't remember a thing about the game. Even when I was asked a week after the Final I still couldn't tell anyone."

"All I know is that we lost 3-2 after leading 2-0 at one stage."

After a spell at Mansfield, the likeable defender moved to Lincoln City in 1972. And in 1975-76 Ellis skippered the club to the Fourth Division Championship in style.

"Yes, the whole squad worked extremely hard for each other over a period of about two and a half years. And when we won the title with a record haul of 74 points and scoring 111 League goals it was a tremendous feeling."

It was the first time that he teamed up with Graham Taylor, one of the Football League's youngest managers.

"He is a great boss," says 30-year-old Ellis. "I do not know what makes him tick, but he does manage to get the best out of his players."

He gees us up and we respond on the pitch to him."

The following season, Lincoln

looked at one time as if they might make promotion again.

"We were always in contention in the Third," remembers Ellis. "And things were going well for us

until about the last half a dozen games or so. We dropped some silly points and just faded from the scene. Although we did finish a creditable ninth in the table."

An anxious moment on the Watford bench for Sam Ellis and chairman Elton John.



The future looked bright until last pre-season break when boss Taylor rocked the club and left to join Fourth Division Watford.

"I don't believe it was such a shock to the players," says the Ashton under Lyme-born Ellis.

"You see he had been linked with a number of clubs and we were half expecting him to leave. What was so surprising was the fact he could have gone up the ladder to a First Division club but he chose the basement again."

When Taylor surveyed the scene at Vicarage Road, he realised he needed new blood and one of the first players he wanted was his former captain at Sincil Bank, Sam Ellis.

"I was very flattered that Mr. Taylor should want me," says Ellis. "I decided to drop down a Division after looking around the club and seeing the potential."

"And of course they have a soccer-mad chairman in Elton John. He always lets Graham run things his way and the pair of them seem to have a great understanding between them."

"I was again honoured when I skippered the club to the Fourth Division title last season."

"I honestly believe we can go a long way together and who knows maybe reach that First Division goal that has been set by everyone connected with Watford."

'When I played in AN OVEN'

FOOTBALL has given me many things I would not have had if I had not become a professional, and, perhaps more than anything, I've had the chance to visit places most people only see on T.V. or in the cinema.

I love travelling and I've been lucky enough to have seen a lot of the world in a short time. Of course, it can be frustrating not having sufficient time to look around the place — I had a day in which to see New York, for instance! — but even so I have some marvellous memories of some wonderful places.

As a youngster I used to stay in England for my holidays. We are a big family and going abroad with children isn't cheap, so we used to go to the coast during the summer which we all appreciated.

can and most times I take a pill to help me. I end up falling asleep in the middle of the film!

I'm quite a good traveller in that I sleep well in strange hotels. Trouble is, in some hotels it can take two nights to work out the heating or air conditioning and by the time you've "cracked" it . . . it's time to leave!

My first trip with England was in 1976 to the United States for the Bicentennial Cup competition. It was in the States that I won my first full cap and that tour was very important for me as it helped me to learn the ropes of international soccer.

We started off in Los Angeles and stayed in downtown L.A. The climate was superb and I spent a memorable day at Disneyland.

It's a fantastic place that is impos-

**RAY
WILKINS**
writes for you

My first trip abroad was to Belgium with the Chelsea youth team, although my first "real" trip came shortly afterwards . . . to Australia. I would have been about 17 at the time and I was just breaking through as a pro.

I played in only one full game, coming on as substitute in some of the others.

One match in particular stands out, in Darwin, where the temperature was like an oven and the humidity 90 degrees. I came on as sub for 20 minutes and at the end I was exhausted. No wonder all the other players were hoping to be taken off when I came on!

We were fortunate to visit Darwin when we did because shortly afterwards they suffered a dreadful typhoon which destroyed much of the place.

British football is very popular Down Under, where there are many expatriates, and we lost one game, I believe, 2-1 in Sydney to a state side that contained many Yugoslavs and Greeks who knew how to look after themselves!

Australia, needless to say, was my longest-ever flight. I used to enjoy aeroplanes, but the novelty has worn off now and I suppose they're almost a necessary evil.

I recall one bad flight in particular from Scotland where we landed in an electric storm. A journey like that can turn you off flying forever!

On long flights, I usually read or do a crossword. I like to sleep if I



sible to describe and those who think it's strictly for the kids couldn't be further from the truth. Disneyland is so big you need two or three days there, and I'd love to go back and catch up on the things I didn't have time to see.

New York was too fast for me. I thought London was fast, but it's pedestrian compared with New York! The place was buzzing and everything moves at a frantic pace.

I loved the hamburgers in the States. No doubt you've eaten the "American" hamburgers in Britain, but the ones in the States are ten times better. It's very easy to put on a stone in weight even on a short trip to America!

I didn't see much of Philadelphia, where we played our last game. Our



ABOVE . . . "Trevor Francis and I enjoy a welcome cup of tea. Nothing better to make you feel at home!"

LEFT . . . "Kevin Keegan outside Disneyland. I'd like to go back there."

RIGHT . . . "At Heathrow Airport with Trevor Brooking."

trial for the World Cup. The security was unlike anything I've ever seen.

Our coach, which took us to training and the match, had an armed escort and it was unreal to travel through the streets of Buenos Aires at 50 miles per hour with all traffic stopping for us. Woe betide any poor motorist who inadvertently got in our way!

We ended the tour in Uruguay, although we didn't stay in Montevideo; we commuted from Buenos Aires. Just as well. From what I saw, Montevideo looked like the end of the world . . .

Of all the places I've been to, I've liked Switzerland best of all. I was in Lausanne with the England Youth team and while winning the tournament helped, I couldn't get over the scenery or how clean everything was. Our hotel was on the edge of Lake Geneva and if you think such places look good in the holiday brochures . . . I can assure you they're even better in real life.

I suppose one of my worst trips was my only one with the Under-23's — to Hungary. We lost 3-0 in Budapest and while I can usually eat most food, the Hungarian diet seems to consist of garlic with



everything and I found it a bit overpowering.

The ideal tour from this point of view would be to go to New York, put on a stone eating their hamburgers . . . then spending a week in Hungary losing it!

Chelsea have had some very nice end-of-season tours. I missed the one to the States because I was on England duty; they finished off with four days holiday in Los Angeles, which I'm sure was most pleasant.

About five or six years ago they

toured the West Indies, which must have been fabulous. Ron Harris still mentions that it's the best place he's ever been to.

Such tours are taken reasonably seriously as the players have a duty to give people value for money and a good impression of our game. Players are ambassadors as much as footballers and like to repay the hosts for the wonderful hospitality they invariably put on.

Last year I had a holiday in Majorca and, lying on the beach one day, I received a phone call from the Chelsea chairman, Brian Mears, informing me that manager Eddie McCreadie had left the club.

My 1978 holiday was once again in Spain, although I had a "mini-holiday" with the Chelsea lads at the end of May in France.

I'll be doing some running and body exercises to prepare myself for pre-season training.

Towards the end of July I'll be getting married, so it's a busy close-season for yours truly.

Enjoy your summer . . . see you in SHOOT regularly.

Raymond

WATCHING Hibs sometimes can be every bit as joyful as having a tooth pulled . . .

On the other hand, they can be one of the most spectacular sides in the game when they hit their top form. Then they can be entertainment with a capital 'E'.

Unfortunately for the Easter Road faithful there is never any way of telling whether Hibs are going to be wonderful. Or Hibs are going to be woeful.

They have taken over Partick Thistle's mantle as the "Great Unpredictables" of Scottish soccer. They can lace their soccer with all the finest things in the game. They can be exciting, entrancing and exhilarating.

However, they can also be

HIBS- the 'Great Unpredictables'



Versatile Bobby Smith and manager Eddie Turnbull (below).



exhausting, enduring and exasperating.

"Hibs were one of my favourite clubs until I joined them," says one former Easter Road player who obviously wishes to remain anonymous. "I thought they were good out on the park, but there were too many problems behind the scenes no one knew about."

"Eventually the off-the-field politics interfered with the football. Loyal players went unrewarded. They weren't given the opportunity to get over a form lapse. They were dropped and sold. I was happy to get away in the end."

Hibs' League Cup victory over Celtic five years ago has been their only trophy win in a long, long time. That was a good team that beat Celtic 2-1 at Hampden that rain-lashed afternoon, but it started to break up just when the long-suffering fans thought they had a good thing going.

Goalkeeper Jim Herriott dropped out of sight, strikers Alan Gordon and Jim O'Rourke, a

menacing twosome who terrified defences, were sold, Jim Black was also transferred and skipper Pat Stanton went to Parkhead in an exchange deal two years ago. Last year international sweeper John Blackley went to Newcastle.

The Easter Road men, it is said, hardly get to know each other's Christian names before one or other is on the move. That's an exaggeration, of course, but it is true to say that they haven't really had a settled side in recent years.

Eddie Turnbull is one of the most respected managers in the game, but the club always seems far too willing to sell their top players when a cheque book is produced.

Joe Baker, Peter Cormack, Peter Marinello, Colin Stein, Alex Cropley as well as Blackley were swiftly on the move when cash was mentioned. It's a vicious circle, really, and it's difficult to see it stop revolving.

Hibs need money. They require big gates, but they are not going to attract the fans if they don't produce the goods on the park. To do that they need their best players. But how do they keep these players if there is very little in the bank?

The Edinburgh side has some quality players on their books at the moment. Cultured sweeper Jackie McNamara, attacking right-back John Brownlie, versatile Bobby Smith, raiding left-winger Arthur Duncan and the smooth Ally MacLeod.

Next season may see a rebirth of The Greens. Let's hope their problems are well behind them. Let's hope, too, they find consistency.

Devastating? Or desperate? The answer lies with the players . . .

DAVE and BOB

Everton's dynamic duo



It was far more than a coincidence that Everton striker Bob Latchford (above right) found the best form of his career soon after Dave Thomas (left) signed for the Goodison Park club.

Latchford is a centre-forward in the traditional English sense. Powerful, good in the air, strong on the ground, a man defences can't leave alone for a second.

Thomas is a winger — and a top-class winger is essential to any target-man. Pin-perfect crosses to the centre-forward cause havoc for opponents and it's good to see wingers coming back into our game.

We often hear talk of dynamic striking duos. Now, there are other types of terrific twosomes like Thomas and Latchford. Robertson and Withe at Forest. Johnston and Regis at West Brom, for instance. Great wingers, with centre-forwards thankful for their service.

Everton also had their best season for ages last time round and Bob scored the magical 30 League goals to win the Daily Express/Adidas £30,000 prize... the first striker to do so.

Thomas, still only 27, despite playing

the best part of 400 League games, cost Everton £200,000 last August. The move took everyone by surprise as the former Burnley star seemed very much part of Queens Park Rangers' future.

But Thomas says: "I felt I was becoming a little stale at Loftus Road. You can't kid yourself and my form wasn't as good as I would have liked.

"A change of club did me the world of good. It gave me a new challenge and all my old enthusiasm came back.

"I was basically happy at Rangers. We had a nice house and had made good friends at the club.

"However, football must always come first and I couldn't see myself progressing unless I got away.

"Rangers had been struggling, so the opportunity to join Everton was too good to turn down.

"I don't like to knock Rangers because they've progressed a lot during the Seventies. Yet when you see the facilities at Everton, there's no comparison. Not only is Goodison superb, but the training ground is a professional's dream."

Thomas was an instant hit with the Merseyside supporters, who delighted

at his tricky, determined wing-play.

The standards at Goodison are high, because they've been bred on top players — nobody has any complaints about Thomas, praise indeed.

"It was easy to settle into such a good team," he says.

"The competition for places keeps everyone on his toes. No one is sure of a first team place so we can't afford to be even one per cent below our best.

"Playing in front of big crowds regularly also helps. Both Burnley and Rangers have a hard core of loyal fans, but they can't be compared with Everton's.

"I often despaired at Rangers. Even when we looked like winning the title a couple of seasons ago, we still couldn't attract the fans. We were playing fabulous football — what more did they want?

"At Everton, you know you're going to get a good crowd and this makes you even keener to win a trophy for the fans."

1977/78 was the first full season under manager Gordon Lee. It was also the first season of Dave Thomas and Bob Latchford.

THE most unlikely goal-scoring partnership in the First Division — that's how people once described us.

That's what they said about Ian Wallace and myself a little over a year ago. But I reckon we've pushed the words back down their throats with the goals we've scored for The Sky Blues.

People said they were surprised at Coventry's recovery last season — but I'm not. We completely altered our attacking formation and used a 4-2-4 system. With two

wingers and Ian and myself in the middle, it worked wonders and the whole side played better. And I reckon there's a lot more to come.

But back to Ian and my partnership with him. It certainly went well last term, with over 40 League goals between us.

What makes Ian Wallace so special as a partner up-front? He's got lots of qualities but I'd say one of his chief ones is the way he shows such aggression for 90 minutes.

He plays off me: I knock balls

down to him and when you do that in the First Division, you're under pressure and can't always head a ball to the precise spot you're aiming for.

What it means is that you need someone who can chase hard, move in aggressively and win the loose ball — and then aim for goal. Ian does all that and that's one of the reasons our partnership has been so successful.

We always play together on the field — we think together and work together. Even in five-a-

sides in training, we try and work out more ways of helping the partnership. We're good friends off the field, too, and that certainly helps. We go out socially together and it all aids to the team-work on the field.

Ian takes the half chances well. He's sharp and never gives up. If he loses a ball, he'll go and have a battle to try and get it back whereas so many strikers just give up at that stage and let a midfield player try and win it back.

He supported me, too, because

'WHY IAN WALLACE IS SO SPECIAL'

by his Coventry
goalscoring partner
MICK FERGUSON



"Ian (below) never gives up," says Mick (left). "He'll always battle for the ball."

he's an unselfish player. He shouts a lot to encourage me and let me know where he is. I've certainly improved since our partnership started to blossom and really succeeded.

People say we'll struggle if either of us gets injured and it will affect the entire team. But I disagree — I believe Coventry are far more adaptable these days to any injuries.

We met Spurs in the League Cup on their ground last term, four days after they'd walloped Bristol Rovers 9-0. After 50 minutes, we lost Jim Holton at the back and only had a striker as substitute. But instead of being caught in a muddle, we suddenly went at them and scored twice. We won the game 3-2 and had proved that we could do well even after such a blow as losing Jim from defence.

The whole side improved and I think we will keep doing well next term even if the goals dry up a bit from Ian and myself. If that happens, Ian and I know what to do — keep battling away and working and things will come right. That's the only way to play through a bad spell.

Ian and I are pleased with the partnership we've forged. We've got a fine blend and we compensate each other superbly. I can't see any reason why we shouldn't keep on banging the goals in throughout next season.

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